

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Mobile, Alabama 36608
(205) 476-9142

Last Sunday in Dominiontide

November 23, 1986

SINGSPARATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L; God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

P: Therefore, we fear not, though the earth be shaken, and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea.

L: Though the waters rage and foam and the mountains quake at its surging.

P: The God of hosts is with us, our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

L: Come, behold the deeds of God, the astounding things God has done on the earth.

P: God stops wars to the ends of the earth, breaks the bow, splinters the spears, and burns the shields with fire.

L; Be still, and confess that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted upon the earth.

P: The God of hosts is with us, our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

OPENING HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Job 23:1-7

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

HYMN: He Touched Me

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Here, O My God

Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we try to hide from you in prosperity, hurrying after shadows, hiding in the lonely crowd. We pray to you -- not to disturb us; we would like to meet you -- but not today; we hope we may see you -- at a distance that would not embarrass us. We would like to take you seriously -- but at some other time; for we are having too much fun today. This is our sin, our lostness, our illness. God God, who did come to forgive sinners and to heal the sick, and to find the lost, and so share paradise with us; forgive, heal, and find us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray, "Our God in heaven,

holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Make Me A Blessing

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
ANNOUNCEMENTS: This is Thanksgiving Week and there are special things going on, please try to attend and share Thanksgiving with our family!

WEDNESDAY: No Bible Study -- We will have our annual Thanksgiving Service at St. Peters. This year the offering will stay at home, but be used to enable people to visit AIDS patients, such as the one at Searcy, by providing gasoline and small gifts to the patient. Please join us and help us make others' lives happier.

THURSDAY: Everyone is welcome at the pastor's and Shirley's home for dinner. Please bring a dish or desert appropriate to the season.

TUESDAY: MGLCC meeting at the Goldenrod. See Shirley or Judson for details.

If you have not had a chance to contribute to the food baskets being prepared by St. Peter's will you please try to contribute something by tomorrow. They have not been able, from their own congregation, to complete the six baskets they traditionally give, and have reached out to us for help. Let's help them help others.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING -- JOIN US -- NO ONE BE ALONE.



1968-1986

Perhaps the mission of MCC can best be summarized in the words of Elder Emeritus John Hose: "Never losing sight of Jesus' remarkable invitation to all humankind, we have proceeded with dignity, perseverance and veracity to proclaim 'freedom and justice for ALL' by the grace of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Mobile, AL 36604
(205) 476-9142

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 27, 1987

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will give thanks to God with all my heart in the assembly of the just.
- P: Great are the works of God, exquisite in their delights.
- P: Majesty and glory are God's work and God's justice endures forever.
- L: God has won renown for wondrous deeds; gracious and merciful is our God.
- P: God feeds those who are reverent; mindful of their joint covenant.
- L: God makes known to the people the power of God's works, giving them the inheritance of the nations.
- P: The works of God's hands are faithful and just; sure are God's precepts, reliable forever, wrought in truth and equity.
- L: God has sent deliverance to the people, ratified the covenant forever; holy and awesome is God's name.
- P: Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom, prudent are all who live by it. God's praise endures forever.

HYMN: O Come ALL You Faithful

180

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

SERMON: Two Turtledoves, an Old Man and a Bag Lady Rev. Ragona

HYMN: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

198

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1)

110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: O Holy Night

202

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty and gracious God, high and holy God, we blunder through our days in vague and harried disorder, seeking pleasures that give us no Joy, seeking securities that give us no Peace, seeking knowledge that give us no Truth, seeking community in a world that gives us no Love. Yet Christmas teaches us that wisdom become foolishness, power becomes weakness, heaven a manger, and God a child, and all is well. Turn us again, O God, to seek the city which has real foundations and stand us in the places of holy fire where

facade and foolishness burn away and where your grace fashions us again into lively and exultant souls. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: JOY TO THE WORLD

179

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

Wednesday: Rap - New Series Begins.

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Ballgames at the church, black-eye peas and ham hocks. Bring a dish and join us for the games.

SATURDAY - Jan. 2 Movie Night. \$3.00 to benefit the Church. Movie: "Kiss of the Spider Woman."

SUNDAY: Dickens Christmas at Joe Tate's. Time & Location, see Joe. Bring your \$1.99 gift.

Deacon's Breakfast Made \$53.00. Thanks to Vern.

Claudia, Richard, Larry, Ron & Wayne + + +

Thanks To Zimlich Florists for Candles and Roses.

Special Thanks to Dick Clark for the fruit baskets: to Richard, Larry, LD, McGill-Tolen, the Ull's and Many Many Folks for Making Christmas Happier for Our People Living With AIDS.

Attendance: 12/20 32, 12/24 36

offering

\$302.25

\$158.63

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
00 Center Street Mobile, AL. 36604
v. Marge Ragana, Pastor (205) 476-9142
RISTMAS EVE December 24, 1987

ristmas Eve Service of the Candles

Genesis
Exodus
The Prophets

MN: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear 181

ervice of the Candles

John

MN: O Little Town of Bethlehem 182

TANY OF CONFESSION:

O God, Christmas is happening again in our hearts.
At the level of our love for God, we find ourselves
celebrating with a lively wonder our sense of the strength
and beauty we forgot was there.

We are amazed that we are part of a history that goes back
to the beginning of time.

We find ourselves dwelling on the mystery of God.
We feel tenderness for our enemies, hear again the cries
of the sick, the lonely and the condemned.

The anguish of our wars is exposed in us bitterly.
Even more, we find ourselves reaching out our hands in
healing.

We would give all people, "the oil of joy for mourning,
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.
We understand the compassion of God, and we perceive that
to live well is to live simply.

We have come to adore the Christ Child, t find meaning,
and to become the children of God.
Teach us to run with shepherds and kneel with kinds, until
our despair -- touched by grace -- becomes joy.

Let your blazing birth burn us down to honesty about our
need for your hand upon us, for hope in our hearts, and
for praise of you.

Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come,
r will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this
our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those
sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver
from evil. For yours is the power, the reign, and the glory,
and forever. Amen.

God be with you. P: And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Service of the Candles - Conclusion

Passing of the Light

HYMN: Silent Night 208

BENEDICTION: Go now into the world with the light you have
received. Go so that love may be known and peace on earth
may truly come in the hearts of all people.

HYMN: Angels We have heard on High 203

BENEDICTION: Let your light so shine before the world, that
all may see your good works and give glory to God who is
in heaven.

+ + + + + + + + +

Tomorrow - Open House at the Pastors. If you are not spending
Christmas with relatives or friends, please come spend it
with Shirley and me.

SUNDAY: Brunch at the church, \$1.50, to benefit the Deacons'
Fund.

TUESDAY: Bible Study.

WEDNESDAY: Rab - New series begins.

THURSDAY - New Year's Open House at the Pastors' and Shirleys.

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Ballgames at the Church, black eye peas and
ham hocks. Bring a dish and come join us for the New Year's
day games.

SATURDAY, January 2nd. Movie Night. \$3.00 to benefit the
church.

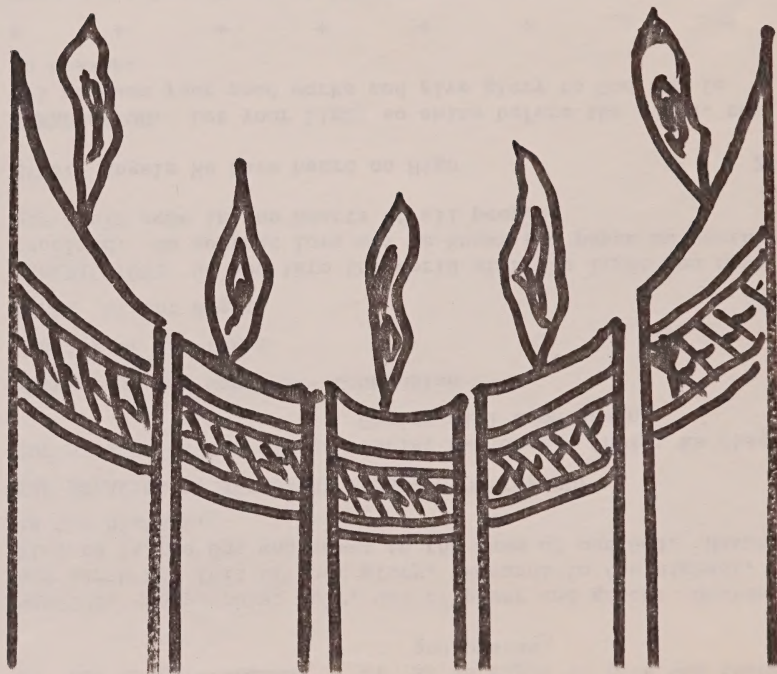
SUNDAY: Dickens' Christmas at Joe Tate's. See him for
location.

Merry Christmas to you all, and the very best of the New Year
to you all.

UNTO US

A CHILD

IS BORN



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 4th Sunday in Advent
 SINGSPARATION
 WELCOME
 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mobile, AL 36604

(205)476-9142

December 20, 1987

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Forever I will sing your love; through all generations I will proclaim your faithfulness.

P: For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

L: O God of hosts, who is like you? Mighty are you and your faithfulness surrounds you, O God.

P: Yours is the mighty arm, the strong hand; justice and judgment are the foundation of your throne;

L: Peace and truth go before you.

P: Happy the people who know your name and the light of your countenance as they walk, O God.

OPENING HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: II Samuel 7:8-16
 Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

SERMON: The Threshold of Christmas

Rev.Ragona

HYMN: Joy To The World

179

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1)

110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMUNION HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem

192

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Dear Lord, why have we been taught to both welcome and dread your coming? We do we both wish for and fear to see you? When the music sounds from the far heaven we tremble; and when it sounds like bells and truth close by us, our very hearts cry out in gladness. It is the sin in us that dreads and hides, it is our pride that cannot bear you. It is our falseness that cannot hear you. O Gracious One, come even now and devastate us and empty us, and in your mercy capture us and fill us with your joy. We adore you, O Word shaped in love, spoken in fire, become captive in flesh, and given for our sins. We thank , we praise, we glorify you, our healer of sickness, our reconciler of warfare, our giver of forgiveness: God with us. In your name we pray, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who

sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

201

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
 HERE WE COME ACAROLING: Tonight, following service, we will all carol at our favorite recreational places. Come join us!

TUESDAY: No Bible Study -- too close to Christmas; too much to do! (Pastor has to work Christmas day.)

WEDNESDAY: Final Advent rap. "The Vigil of Christmas."

THURSDAY: Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service -- 11:00 p.m. at the church.

FRIDAY: Christmas Day open house at the pastor's. Please come and share and enjoy. Bring a dish if you would like to share with others. We will provide turkey.

NEXT SUNDAY: Deacon's Breakfast. Everyone is welcome at the church for Sunday Brunch. The deaconate will be preparing the food. Cost is \$1.50. (Benefit of the Deacon's Fund.)

TOMORROW NIGHT - We will be putting up our Christmas tree. We would be very pleased if you would like to come by the pastor and Shirley's home and enjoy putting up the tree. 8:00 o'clock sounds like a good hour for us to be back with the tree.

LAST SUNDAY: ATTENDANCE: 29 OFFERING: \$120.00

Needed for Budget: 284.00

Please remember that our expenses go on, despite Christmas, and immediately after the holidays, if possible, try to make up for any shortages we are experiencing.

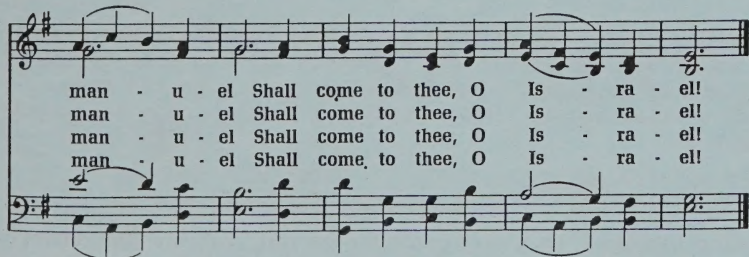
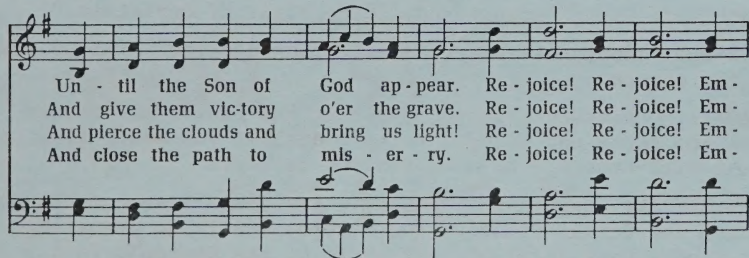
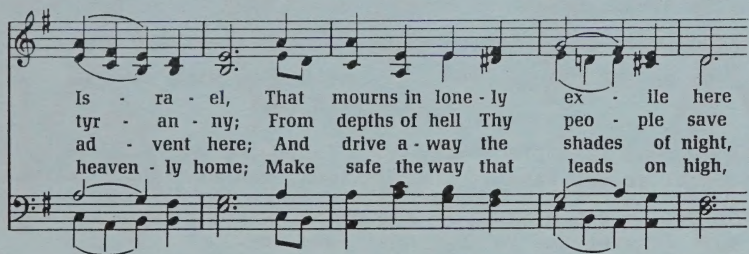
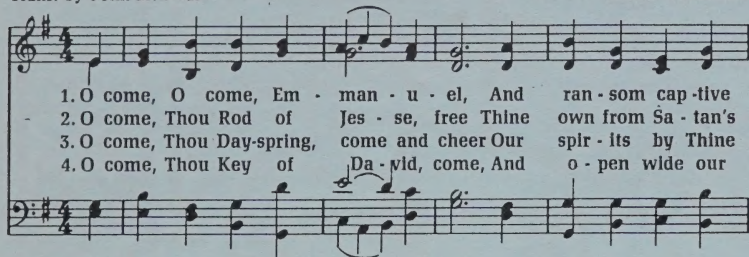
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Latin Hymn

Trans. by John M. Neale

Thomas Helmore



HIS NAME

SHALL BE CALLED

EMMANUEL



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36604
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
November 29, 1987 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEDICATION OF THE ADVENT BANNER

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: O shepherd of Israel, hearken, O
guide of your people!

P: From your throne shine forth upon us, rouse your power
and come save us.
L: O God of hosts, restore us; for if your face shine upon
us we shall be safe.
P: O God of hosts, how long will you be angry while your
people pray?
L: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them
tears to drink in ample measure.
P: You have left us to be fought over by our neighbors and
our enemies mock us.
L: God of hosts, restore us.
P: If your face shine upon us we shall be safe.

OPENING HYMN: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 185

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

GIFT OF PARTING

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 63: Isaiah 63:16-64:4
I Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:32-37

HYMN: Have Thine Own Way, Lord 38

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs. 1) 110
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Cleanse Me 102

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Behold, O God, you have been angry be-
cause we have been sinful; all of us have become unclean. All
our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered
like trees and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There
is none who calls upon your name, none who are aroused to
cling to you; for your face is hidden from us and have deli-
vered us up to our guilt. Yet, O God, you have created us.
We are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work
of your hands. Be not angry, O God; do not keep our guilt
in mind. Look upon us who are all your people. Forgive us
and heal us through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to

pray, saying, Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your
dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as
we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the
test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the
reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and
praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Jesus Is Coming Again 172a

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + + + +
We welcome the new members into fellowship and pray that we
may be the church family they want and need.

Thanks to Tom and John for the building and grounds cleanup
Saturday, to Vic and Chuck for materials and assistance in
making the Advent banner, and to Missy Ragona for her help with
the banner.

Today we officially bid "Godspeed" to Tom and Dean, who are
moving to North Carolina. We wish them well and commend them
to the care of Rev. Christine Oscar at Greensboro, N.C.

MOVIE NIGHT: This Friday at 7:00. Bring your favorite
casserole and watch a gay-related movie with us. Will will be
supplying the movie, and the title should be available today.

TUESDAY: Bible Study - The God who suffers. Jeremiah 11-20.
Jeremiah 6:26.

WEDNESDAY: First Advent Rap. See your bulletin for the
Introduction.

THURSDAY: Deacon training. The Christian Year.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 24 OFFERINGS: \$98.00
Needed for Budget: \$284.50

Our Thanksgiving Offering was \$100.00 for Rev. Elder John Hose.



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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Thanksgiving Eve

Mobile, AL 36604

(205) 476-9142

November 25, 1987

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Sing joyfully to God, all you lands;
serve our God with gladness; come before
God with joyful song.

P: Know that the Lord is God; God has made us, and we are
God's own. We are God's people, the flock that God tends.

L: Enter into God's gates with thanksgiving and into God's
courts with praise; Give thanks to God; bless God who is
very good.

P: Praise our God, whose kindness endures forever and whose
faithfulness remains to all generations.

G: Praise ye our God.

OPENING HYMN: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come 170

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 8:7-18
II Corinthians 9:8-11
Matthew 6:26-34

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving for the World

L: We revel, O God, for the wonder of the universe which you
have made as our home.

P: For air and water; for darkness and light, for gravity
and relativity; for green plants and grass and trees that
shelter birds that sing; for all we see and what we do not
-- we give thanks.

L: We appreciate all that is beautiful.

P: For summer clouds and soft blue skies; for tall straight
trees, and the friendly dog that greets us at our door;
for daytime and nighttime; for the moon and stars; for
everything -- we give thee thanks.

Thanksgiving for People

L: We thank you, O God, for people.

P: For people who have understanding of life and its true
meaning and who teach the same to others; for people who
serve personal needs unselfishly and humbly; for people
who bring beauty and joy into the world; for people who
do the best they can; for people who are respectful of
those who differ with them; for people who seek the truth
and are careful in protecting the good names of others;
for people who love even the unloveable, we give thanks.

Thanksgiving for God

L: We thank you, God, for yourself.

P: We thank you for your love, which we can never deserve,
but without which we could not survive.

L: We thank you for giving us hearts and minds that can be
satisfied ultimately only by truth.

P: We thank you for giving us free wills that give dignity
to our lives and offer us responsibility for our own
choices.

L: We thank you for the glorious privilege of being partner
with you in completing your creation and establishing
justice and love among all people.

P: We thank you that when there seems to be no conceivable
help, there is help beyond our physical powers.

L: We rejoice in life and acknowledge our thanks by return
of our first fruits to you -- our time, our talents, and
our gifts.

P: We thank you for your love which nourishes us and teaches
us to nourish each other. For all your gifts -- we
give you thanks.

HYMN: Now Thank We all Our God 16

THANKSGIVING MEDITATION

HYMN: We Praise Thee, O God 168

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 11

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, we know that the one reason for thanksgiving is you,
yourself. We know that through you fields bring forth, the
earth turns to the sun and through your mercy we dare to rise
to a new day. We thank you for your great mercy toward our
sins, for constant love when we are in despair, for strength
to rise again when we have been knocked to our knees. Be
peace to our wars and thus redeem all nations. Fashion us
for the uses of love. Defend us from our sins and keep us
close to you, in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray,
saying, Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion
come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the
test but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the
reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: Great is Thy Faithfulness 17

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street Mobile, AL. 36604
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 November 15, 1987 12th Sunday in Dominiontide
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Blessed is everyone that is in awe of God; who walks in God's ways.

P: For thou shalt eat the labor of your hands; happy will you be, and it shall be well with you.

L: Your mate shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of your house; your children like olive plants around your table.

P: Behold, that thus shall be the one who fears God.

L: God shall bless you in Zion, and you shall see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

P: And you shall be blessed, you and your families and there shall be peace in Israel.

OPENING HYMN: LORD OF ALL BEING 96

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9
 I Thessalonians 4:13-8
 Matthew 25:1-13

SERMON: ALL WRAPPED UP IN THE RAPTURE!!!

HYMN: JESUS IS COMING AGAIN 172

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - "We Give Thee But Thine Own"(Vs. 1) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: In the Cross 47

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, who is present both in darkness and light, who is now and forever, hear our prayer, our confession, our sorrow. There is a rage in us against ourselves, against humanity, against You. There is brokenness in us, and loneliness. There is evil in us and in our souls. We do not want to be like this and we desire change. Forgive us for the things we do, for what we have not done, and for the things we will do again. In your immeasurable mercy, be in us a center of compassion that, day by day, restores us to wholeness, to trust and to an honest peace with you, with others, and within ourselves. Through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name, Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessings are the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: He Keeps Me Singing 161

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +

MONDAY: Buddy Training: Speaker, Rachel Thomas, Social Worker at U.S.A. M.C. "Resources for AIDS Patients." New people are asked to be there at 7:00, others at 7:30.

TUESDAY: Bible Study. Isaiah 6, the forgiving God.

WEDNESDAY: Rap, "Love is Better the Second Time Around." Making a new relationship after the one before has ended.

THURSDAY: Pastor will be speaking to Baldwin County NOW on AIDS and prevention as well as programs in the area.

AIDS PRAYER VIGIL - Begins Saturday night through to service time Sunday.

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS - Sunday at 5:00.

OPEN HOUSE, THANKSGIVING DAY. Turkeys will be provided. Please bring a dish appropriate to the season. Dinner will be served at 4:00 p.m. If you must eat with your family, please come by later for desert and coffee.

NEW MEMBERS will be received into the church on Sunday, November 29th.

Sunday, November 29th begins ADVENT. If anyone is interested in making an Advent banner to decorate the church, please see the pastor. Also, we need blue altar cover and chalice cover for the season. (Also 6 blue candles and 1 rose one for the Advent wreath).

Holiday planning is in order. The Board will meet at the pastor's on Friday, November 20th or a short meetings.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Mobile, AL 36604
(205)476-9142

10th Sunday in Dominiontide November 1, 1987
SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will bless you while I live; lifting up
my hands, I will call upon your name.
P: As with the riches of a banquet, my soul shall be satisfied.
L: With exultant lips I shall praise you.
P: I will remember you in the nightwatches, and meditate upon
you on my couch.
L: You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings, I shout
for joy.
P: My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.
L: The rulers shall rejoice in God; all who swear by God shall
glory.
P: But the mouths of those who speak falsely shall not be heard.
L: Your kindness is greater than life.
P: My lips shall glorify you.

OPENING HYMN: Praise Be to God, the Almighty 195

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 26:4-10
I John 3:18-24
Matthew 5:43-48

SERMON: Benificence or Benevolence Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Lord, I Want to Be A Christian 57

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own 110
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus Calls Us 41

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we confess that we treat the life
you give us shabbily: we use people as things, we are afraid to
love, we close our eyes to injustice and our hearts to mercy.
We hug our own piety and keep the church away from those who are
suffering. Give us courage to renounce the comfortable lies by
which we live and strengthen us to share the weight of the
world's anguish. Let fall up on us such forgiveness that shames
us from our sin. Shape in us an ache for faith. Teach us awe,
and make our hearts brim full of your love. Be close to us and
gather us in your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who

taught us to pray, saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your dominion come; your will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us

to the test but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power,
the reign and the glory now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace, Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Stepping in the Light 81

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
PLEASE: If you drink a canned Coke, please pay 50¢ for it.
If you don't Ron and Wayne will have to, because they'll come
up short. Be fair.

TUESDAY: Bible Study, "The Individual's God." I Kings 17-
II Kings 9.

WEDNESDAY: Rap: "Bonding with Another Person."

THURSDAY: NO DEACON'S TRAINING. The pastor will be leaving
for conference in Huntsville.

FRIDAY: Movie and Potluck. Movie is "La Cage aux Folles."
Bring a dish and \$3.00. Money supports the church.

SUNDAY: NO New Members' Class. Pastor will be in Huntsville.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN HUNTSVILLE, Fri., Sat, and Sunday of
this week.

Remember to bring canned goods, etc., appropriate for Thanks-
giving baskets for our Buddies. We will be giving turkeys, etc.
to Buddies just before Thanksgiving.

THANKSGIVING OPEN HOUSE: At the church, for all of us. Bring
a dish thanksgiving day. Turkeys will be provided. Come and
eat and enjoy.

We want to say thanks to Mike and Rigg for opening their home
to us and to YACHTS for organizing the fun Halloween party
last night. You all looked wonderful! YACHTS will announce
the amount we made for the Buddy Program and their program.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36604
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 7th Sunday in Dominiontide October 11, 1987

SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Praise the name of our God; Praise, you servants of God.

- P: Praise, all who stand in the house of God, in the courts of the house of God.
 L: Praise God, who is a good ruler; sing praise to God whom we love.
 P: For I know that God is great -- greater than all gods.
 L: All that God wills is done in heaven and on earth, in the seas and in the depth of the earth.
 P: God raises storm clouds from the ends of the earth, makes rain with lightning, brings for the winds from the storehouse.
 L: Your name, O God, endures forever; LORD is your title through all generations.
 P: For you defend your people and are merciful to your servants.
 L: The idols of the nations are silver and gold, only human handiwork.
 P: They have mouths but speak not, eyes that see not, ears that do not hear, nor is their breath in their mouths;
 L: All that trust in them shall fail, but we shall bless our God.
 P: Lift up your hands toward the sanctuary and bless our God.

OPENING HYMN: O Worship Our God 40

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 25:6-9
 Philippians 4:4-13
 Matthew 22:1-14

HYMN: He Keeps Me Singing 161

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (vs. 1 only) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus Calls Us 41

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, before your awesome righteousness, how can we compare ourselves? You are holy, we become sullied. You are wholeness; we are broken. You are freedom; we become captive. We have done evil, but more, we have allowed evil to be done. We have let innocence be attacked; we, too, have fed the dogs of hate. We have watched the world fall. O vast and merciful God, hear our sorrow for what we are when we forget you in your majesty and ourselves in our own dignity. Forgive us our sins, through Jesus who taught

us to pray, saying: Praise God in heaven: Holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: HEAVEN CAME DOWN 72

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

+ + + + +
 We do not have a figure (at press time) of the amount the tennis tournament produced for the Buddy Program, but we will let you know as soon as possible.

TUESDAY: Bible Study - Encounters with God. This week "Abraham's Encounter."

WEDNESDAY: Rap: Open Topics. 15 minute discussions on a variety of topics. You pick 'em.

THURSDAY: Adult children of Alcoholics, See John for location

NEXT MONDAY: 10/19. Buddy Training. Dr. Adrien Bodet, III will be talking about the latest information about the virus and secondary invaders. Please come 7pm if you are new to the program.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: November 7&8 in Huntsville.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 25 immediately following service. Approval of By-Laws, budget, and officers who have been appointed to the Board. If you have an item for the agenda, please see Priscilla or Marge. If you have a budget item, please see John L.

HALLOWEEN PARTY: Saturday, October 31 at Mike & Rick's on Fowl River. Tickets available next week, and must be purchased in advance, \$4.00. Benefit for Buddy Program (60%) and YACHT (40%) for outreach.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36604
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 5th Sunday in Dominiontide September 27, 1987
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: To you I lift up my soul, O my God.

P: In you I trust; let me not be put to shame, neither let my enemies exult over me.

L: No one who waits for you, O God, shall be put to shame; no, only those who needlessly break faith shall be put to shame.

P: Make known your ways to me, O God; teach me your paths.

L: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.

P: Remember that your compassion and your kindness, O God, are from old.

L: Do not remember the sins of my youth and my frailties; in your kindness remember me, because of your goodness. O God.

P: Good and upright is our God, who shows sinners the way, and guides the humble to justice.

L: All the paths of God are kindness and constancy toward those who keep God's covenant and decrees.

P: When we fear God, we are shown the way we should choose and all our guilt is pardoned; redeem us, O God.

OPENING HYMN: HOLY, HOLY 11

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 33:12-23
 Philippians 1:27-30
 Matthew 21:28-32

SERMON: WALKIN' THE TALK Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Make Me A Blessing 78

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs 1) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Here, O My Lord, I See Thee 60

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O sovereign God, we have difficulty mending our sins without your mercy. We are too often purposeless and our lives undirected; at times we permit the whirl and fastness of our lives to obscure your presence. We have no time for silence to hear your voice and little time to understand your truth. Our ways are tangled, our boasts foolish, our compassion negligible. O awesome Majesty, gather us and hold us lest we perish in our own pride. Give us honesty before our own needs and compassion before the needs of others. Deepen us down to hear your coming amongst us, through Jesus Christ

our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: They'll Know We Are Christians 213

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + + + + + +
 In just a few minutes last Sunday \$102 was donated for new chairs. Our thanks to Priscilla and Sherry (who also purchased the new chairs for us), Chuck and Vic, John and Bobby, Bob H. and Shirley and Marge. (And Jesus said, "Go thou and do likewise!") Seriously, we still need another 6 chairs.

NEXT SUNDAY: Fall Kickoff and Anniversary Sunday for UFMCC, we will have our Assistant District Coordinator here to preach for us. Rev. Bob Galloway is our guest, and we expect him to be here for the kickoff party and for the special service. Please come and bring a friend. We will sing hymns unique to MCC and just celebrate! MCC is 19 years old!

WEDNESDAY: Rap - "Gays and the Law."

THURSDAY: Adult Children of Alcoholics.

SATURDAY: Kick off party. Check with Dean if you have not told him what you are bringing. Check with Ron and Wayne for other things. Come and have fun with us. Invitations have gone out to people who help with the Buddy Program and who are supporters of MCC.

There will be no film and potluck this week -- but there will be one Friday, October 9th.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 14th Sunday in Pentecost
 SINGSPARATION

Mobile, AL 36604
 (205) 476-9142
 August 23, 1987
 ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Come let us sing joyfully to God; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
 P: Let us greet God with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to our God.
 L: You, our God, are a great God, and a great ruler above all other gods.
 P: In God's hand are the depths of the earth, the tops of the mountains, the seas and the dry lands: God has made all these.
 L: Come let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the God who has made us.
 P: This is our God; we are the people God shepherds, the flock God guides.

OPENING HYMN: Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us 24

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17: 1-7
 Romans 11:33-36
 Matthew 16:13-22

SERMON: A Rock, a Key and a Question Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 19

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs. 1.) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: You Are Lord (to be sung twice) 5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Gracious God, you called us to be your church, the community of grace, the household of faith: We confess that we have been your indifferent servants. Called to practices of love, we have been neither hot nor cold. Called to celebrations of mercy, we have neither sacrificed nor suffered. We try to follow the safe path, the respectable street, the approved way -- let we encounter thy mystery, thy danger and thy cross. O Christ, save us from the misery of the neutral way and strengthen us to lose ourselves in the wilderness of the world's anguish. Help us to go on without fear; and make us one with the patriarchs, the prophets, the disciples-- truly your redeptive church. Through Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray saying, Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us

to the test but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Higher Ground 236

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

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TUESDAY: Homosexuality and the Bible: The Big Eth, the New Testament, 7:30 at the church. New members are particularly invited to attend.

WEDNESDAY: RAP: Changing Lifestyles. What is a gay life-style, what changes from a heterosexual life style do we make?

THURSDAY: Deacon's training. Anyone interested in becoming a deacon or finding out what deacons are and what they do, please join us at the pastor's home.

SATURDAY: 7:30 YACHTS. This is a new group for young gays between 18 and 25, preferably single. It is outreach and community for those who do not want to come out via the bars, but to meet with and enjoy the company of other young gays. (NO ONE OVER 25, PLEASE.)

Watch this place for announcement of a tennis tournament to raise money for the Buddy Program. If you play, sharpen your game.

Competitive cooking is in style for our first potluck at the church on September 4th. Bring a dish and \$3.00. There will also be a movie and popcorn (if you're not too full!)

Get things together for a Silent Auction to be held Sept. 12th. Items to go on display Sept. 6th with bids made that night. Anything not accepted for a bid will be auctioned. Auctioneer needed! Proceeds divided between Buddies and the church.

Cover: Furnished by The Bettman Archives, Inc.

Lectionary for Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Psalm 138; Isaiah 22:19-23;
Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

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L.P.E. U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE



You are the Christ,
the Son
of the living God.

Matthew 16:16

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 7th Sunday in Pentecost
 SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mobile, AL 36604
 (205)476-9142
 July 5, 1987

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: The heavens proclaim your wonders, O God,
 and your faithfulness in the assembly
 of the people.

P: For who in the skies can rank with God; or who is like
 God among the people?

L: God is awesome in the council of the holy ones; great and
 omnipotent beyond all beings.

P: You rule over the surging of the sea; you still the
 swelling of the waves.

L: Yours are the heavens, and yours is the earth; the world
 and its fullness you have founded.

P: Yours is a mighty arm, strong is your hand.

L: Justice and judgment are the foundations of your throne;
 kindness and truth go before you.

P: Happy the people who know the joyful shout; at your name
 they rejoice all the day.

L: Through your justice they are exalted, for you are the
 splendor of their strength.

P: You are my rock, my savior, and my God; Blessed be God
 forever.

OPENING HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness 174

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 28:1-9
 Romans 6:3-14
 Matthew 10:34-42

SERMON: Can You Afford to Be a Christian? Rev. Ragona

HYMN: This is My Song 209

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Come, Ye Disconsolate 101

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, you sustain us through our nights
 and bring us to new mercy each day: Awaken us, indwell in
 us, encompass us. Shake out our drowsy souls for praise.
 Strengthen our hearts for love. Open our minds for truth.
 Keep us from fooling ourselves with our own make-believe.

Show us that we are not alone, but that we need each other
 and we need you to be fully whole. Be our solace in pain,
 our comforter in grief, our redeemer in death. Remind us
 daily to praise you and nightly to call upon your name, for
 you are the source of our strength and healing for our souls.
 In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our
 God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your
 will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
 our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those
 who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver
 us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory
 now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace; heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Let There Be Peace on Earth 157A

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

* * * * *
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE BORN IN JULY. Do we know who you
 are? Please tell Priscilla, so we can wish you a personal
 happy birthday!

WISH LIST: Ashtrays (preferably plastic), room deodorizers,
 a desk. For the Deacon's Pantry: Pasta and macaroni and
 cheese. For the Buddy closet: Depends. For the coffee
 hour: Powdered creamer and sugar (2 lb. boxes).

GENERAL CONFERENCE: Begins in less than two weeks. Remember
 to look over the pre-conference reports in the conference
 room.

PRAYER LIST: Please pray for the family of Jack Marlowe,
 who died this week. His sister Bobbie, his father, and
 his lover all need our prayers.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND, EVERYONE!

MWTRPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
 1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36604
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205)476-9142
 2nd Sunday in Pentecost (Trinity Sunday) June 14, 1987
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Exult in our God, O you just; praise
 from the upright is fitting.
 P: Give thanks to God with the harp and lyre; sing praise to
 God.
 L: Sing to God a new song; pluck the strings skillfully,
 praise God with shouts of gladness.
 P: Upright is the word of our God and all God's works are
 trustworthy.
 L: God loves justice and right; the earth is full of the
 kindness of God.
 P: Let all the earth stand in awe of God; let all who dwell
 in the world revere God.
 L: The plan of God stands forever; the design of God's heart
 through all generations.
 P: Happy the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom
 God has chosen as an inheritance.

OPENING HYMN: HOLY, HOLY SA11

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 4:32-40
 II Corinthians 13: 5-9, 11-13
 Matthew 28: 16-20

SERMON: A Plug for God Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Love Divine, All Love's Excelling SA127

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (V1 only) SA110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Will Serve Thee SA234

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, for all within us that has wound-
 ed others and caused them grievance, we ask your pardon. For
 the malice in us, the jealousy, the cold heart, we pray your
 forgiveness. We seek your mercy for our part in the general
 misery of humanity; for our deaf ears that will not hear, and
 our blind eyes that will not see. Awaken our compassion,
 strengthen our love and send us forth to where people are
 crying out, hearts are broken, and there is misery. We know
 that in the midst of all anguish there is your peace, awesome,
 amazing and eternal. Make us partakers in that peace. In the
 name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven,
 holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on

earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
 bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
 against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us
 from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory
 now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Since Jesus Came Into My Heart SA71

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +
 We welcome you to our church, and hope you will rejoice with
 us in our new surrounds, unfinished though they may be.
 Things are under way; we will have electricity this week
 (we almost had it last week, but there was confusion on the
 part of the installer.) The door is coming soon -- and we
 will have better ventilation soon. Rome, and certainly not
 the dominion of God was not built in a day.

Please notice, however, that we do have a piano. Thanks to
 Mr. Foshee's company, we are able to afford this piano and
 it will help us "make a joyful noise to the Lord."

Someone dropped off two folding chairs, but we don't know
 who. We'd like to tell you where to get them, because they
 are handsome and would make beautiful seating. Secret
 donor, tell us where from?

We are aiming at a dedication service on June 27th. Please
 help us make that a reality.

Also note the new hymnals. Seek out your favorites, and
 if you don't find some, let us know. We are still in process
 and there are some duplicates that could come out and new
 hymns go in.

Happy Birthday, Tammy. (She has turned 18!)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Mobile, AL 36604
(205)476-9142

PENTECOST SUNDAY

June 7, 1987

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: How manifold are your works, O God.

P: In wisdom you have created all of the creatures of the earth.

L: They look to you to give them food in good season; when you give it to them they gather it.

P: When you open your hand they are filled with good things.

L: If you hide your face, they are dismayed.

P: If you take away their breath, they perish and return to dust.

L: When you send forth your spirit, they are created.

P: You renew the face of the earth.

L: The glory of God endure forever; may there be gladness in the works of God.

P: I will sing to God all my life, I will sing praise to God while I live.

L: Pleading God will be my theme;

P: I will be glad in my God.

OPENING HYMN: From All That Dwell

SA 85

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 44:1-8

Acts 2:1-21

John 3:5-8

SERMON: It's a public occasion!

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Pass It On

SA 49

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: They'll Know We are Christians

SA213

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Eternal God: Take from us that sin by which we declare we have no sin. Make us sorry for the ways we have wounded one another. Keep us penitent for our neglect of the world's suffering, for the sick we have not visited, for the hungry we have not fed, for the naked we have not clothed, for the prisoners we have not set free. Especially, deepen our sadness for not having loved enough the holy, the chaste, the innocent. Humble is now in our darkness, and make us ready to receive our Light, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying,

"Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

(Everyone is welcome to come to communion in our church. You do not need to be a member of this or any church. Jesus bids you welcome.)

THE ALLELUIA

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
We welcome you to our NEW church space, and thank everyone for the labor of love which has gone into making the church usable. For all who labored in the sun to clear the grounds and the interior, for Jay and Claudia who created the altar, for Shirley who stained it, and for those who gave the money for the materials -- God be praised.

Obviously, there is more to be done. The door should be fixed this week. The lights will be on this week, and we may even have some furniture in the building this week.

We need chairs! Anyone who would like to purchase an ordinary folding chair at Waller's would help us greatly. If we all purchase them there, they will be uniform and will make our service more attractive. We thank everyone in advance who does so.

The official dedication day for our sanctuary is June 27th, and we will be inviting guests on that day. Spread the word.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

2nd Sunday in Easter

April 26, 1987

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
"You are my God, " I say, "Apart from
you I have no good.

P: How wonderfully God has made me cherish the holy ones who are
in the land.

L: Those who court other Gods, multiply their sorrows; I will not
give them blood libations, nor will I take their names upon my
lips.

P: O God, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my
lot.

L: For me the measuring lines have fallen on pleasant sites; fair
indeed is my inheritance.

P: You will show me the path of life; fullness of joys in your presence
and delights at your right hand forever.

OPENING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:Acts 2:22-32

I Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

SERMON: Stronger Because of Doubt

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Spirit of God

M179

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Pass Me Not

M 231

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, in the world's rage we watch and
wait, aware of our weakness, our doubts and our guilt. Our faith
is often tired and we are enfeebled by our fears. Enter us with light
and faith. Be morning to our dark and daylight to our fears. Sur-
round us with your love. Warm us with forgiveness for each other.
Ready us for the things we must bear, give us strength. Turn our
hands to compassion, our minds to reason, our hearts to love. En-
liven us with such trust in thee that our prayers may be honest and
our lives renewed with joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who

taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the
glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Blessed Assurance

M238

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
MONDAY: MGLCC - 7:30 at the Goldenrod. Someone is needed to
represent the church at this meeting. Please volunteer to speak for
us and share our plans for Pride Month.

WEDNESDAY: Rap. TOPIC: "Trust - How to build it."

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: May 9th. Saturday evening at the
Pastor's. Cookout first and then we will meet. Please bring salads
and desert will be homemade ice cream. Important decisions - -
(For example, we must meet somewhere else, probably beginning in
June.) We need to go over our budget and set some priorities for
General Conference. Please try to attend, if at all possible.
We will need treasurer's report, and clerk's report, as well as a
report from the Buddy Program.

MAY 10TH IS MOTHER'S DAY -- Bring your mother or a mother
to church. Tell a Lesbian mother about us, and bring her to church.

Ron Hunt graciously offered to represent us at District Conference
since we had no one able to go. He will report to us in May when he
is here for a visit. We thank him for caring enough to call us and
offer.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, AL. 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT March 8, 1987
INSPIRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS GREETINGS
CALL TO WORSHIP: Glorify God, O Jerusalem; praise God, O Zion.
P: God has strengthened the bars of your gates and blessed your children.
L: You have been granted peace within your borders; with the best wheat God fills you.
P: God sends forth commands to the earth; swift is God's word.
L: God's word has been proclaimed to the people; God's statutes and ordinances to the land.
P: God has not done this for any other nation; God has not made these ordinances known to them.

OPENING HYMN: Lead On, O Cloud of Yahweh Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14-16
I Corinthians 10:16-17
John 6: 51 58

SERMON: Pretzels, Prayer, and Praise Rev. Ragona
HYMN: Break Now the Bread of Life L235

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Here, O My Lord Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we confess that we do not like to confess our fault. We become impatient with your correction. We abandon you and part of ourselves rather than face ourselves. We prefer to be praised, to dance our polkas of pride, to strut to the beat of our wars, to play the games of chance with our souls, and to avoid, always, the whirl and agony of our sin, for we know then that we are crushed and only you, O God, can make us whole. Open hope to us, give us good labor, new joys. We live because of you and we are alive in you. You make a way for us, and whether we take the way of ease, sorrow, burden, laughter, foolishness, or wisdom, you are on the way with us. You make blessed all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in Heaven, only is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our

sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer L343

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + + + + +

WEDNESDAY: Special Lenten Raps. Since so many of us are dealing the the subject of death and dying; these raps are of special interest. Please come, they are not depressing, but filled with hope.

THURSDAY: Bible Study, the first letter to the Thessalonians.

SATURDAY: Memorial Service for Jon Martin, here at the church, with friends from Montgomery and Atlanta attending. Please offer housing, if you can. 7:00 p. m.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Weekend of March 21 and 22. Rev. Sam Edelman will be "preaching" Saturday evening at dinner, and Sunday morning at the church. We will also have a Sunday evening service. We will announce the location this week. We need housing for a few people from Jackson. Tickets will be either \$1500 or \$20.00.

BUDDY TRAINING: Monday, March 16th 7:30 p. m. at Springhill Hosp. Professional Building, 3rd floor classroom. Trainer, Bob Belmany, funeral director and thanatologist.

Remember we will have an Easter Dawn service. We need musicians and singers for that service. Please see Vickie.

Church member needs roommate. Please see Joe Tate.

Judson is receiving contributions of \$4.00 for a hymnala cover in Jon Martin's memory. These will carry a book plate with your name and

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

March 1, 1987

The Transfiguration

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Why do the nations rage and the people utter folly?

P: The rulers of the earth rise up and conspire together against God and against God's anointed;

L: "Let us break their bonds and cast their fetters from us.

P: God, enthroned in heaven, laughs and derides them; speaks in anger to them and terrifies them in God's wrath.

L: God announces, "I myself have chosen a ruler, set my choice upon Mt. Zion, my holy mountain.

P: This is the decree of God, which we announce, "You are my begotten; this day I have chosen you; ask of me and I will give you the nations for an inheritance and you shall possess the ends of the earth."

L: Now take heed, be warned, O rulers of the earth: Serve God with rejoicing, and stand in awe of our God, with trembling pay homage.

P: Lest you perish from the way; happy are all who take refuge in God!

OPENING HYMN: Holy, Holy, Holy

MI

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 24: 12, 15-18

II Peter 1:16-19

Matthew 17: 1-8

SERMON: God's Peep Show

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Send Down Thy Truth, O God

M181

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart M179

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, by whose love fear vanishes, by whose forgiveness sin falls away, and by whose mercy our mortality is overcome: Come to us who are fearful, sinful, and mortal. By love persuade us, by forgiveness heal us, and by mercy resurrect us. Let your Word speak to our pretenses, let our prayers speak out of our deepest needs, let your power break our chains of fear. Awaken us to our own distress and that of others; keep us strong in our trust toward thee. Let us know, as you have always told us, that we are forgiven and live

heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Blessed Assurance

M238

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
We have heard from his family that Jon Martin died yesterday. Judson, Jimmy B., and Ken are at the funeral. Pray for Jon's family, please.

We thank Vickie and the choir for the new sound at Communion. God bless your efforts. If you are interested, see Vickie.

WEDNESDAY: No RAP. There will be an Ash Wednesday service at the church, and ashes will be distributed. Please attend.

THURSDAY: BIBLE STUDY. The World of Paul. I Thessalonians.

BUDDIES NEEDED. If you are interested in being a buddy to a woman patient, speak to the pastor. Lynn needs a friend and the women who have been working with Carrie do not have enough hours to spread around. You must have your own transportation.

Beginning next Wednesday, special Lenten Raps on the issue of death and dying. These are an annual series, which the Fellowship sends and are geared especially to MCC.

LENT is coming. Make a special sacrifice that will help another. Jesus gave himself for us. Let us give ourselves to others.

4500 Bit and Spur Road
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
3rd Sunday After Epiphany
SINGSPARATION

Mobile, AL 36608
(205) 476-9142
January 25, 1987
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: GOD is my light and my salvation, whom
shall I fear?

P: God is my life's refuge, of whom should I be afraid?

L: When evildoers come at me to devour my flesh, my foes and my
enemies stumble and fall.

P: Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear;
though war be waged against me, even then will I trust.

L: One thing I ask of God, and this I seek: To dwell in the house of
God all the days of my life,

P: That I may gaze on the loveliness of God and contemplate God's
temple.

L: I believe that I shall see the bounty of God in the land of the living

P: Wait for God with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for God.

HYMN: "Arise, Your Light Has Come"

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:1-4

I Corinthians 1: 1-9

Matthew 4:12-23

SERMON: Why Are We Afraid of the Light?

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Stepping In the Light

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Prayer

COMMUNION HYMN: God Is My Strong Salvation

M324

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we are sorry for the little ways
we disappoint you and others, for envy, meanness, gossip and self-
pity; for by these small sins we injure the peace of the world and turn
our homes and ourselves away from you. We pray your forgiveness
for being so small when you have given us such greatness for a model.
We understand that without you we are broken pieces of ourselves.
Enter us, so that our voices may pray you, our tongue may sing you,
our ears hear you, and our souls desire you. Gather to yourself our
brokenness, for you alone can make us whole. In your mercy mend
us and give us back to the uses of love. In the name of Jesus, who
taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive
those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us
from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and
forever, Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Send the Light

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

ANYONE intested in beginning Buddy Training, please see the pastor.
We have need for more buddies than we have trained. Would anyone
trained, who does not have a buddy please see Marge after the service.

WEDNESDAY: Rap, "Grieving for heterosexual privilege." Please,
even if you don't ordinarily attend rap, try to attend this one. It is
important, and will help get a handle on some things that bother us as
gay people.

THURSDAY: Bible Study. The Book of Acts introduction was cancelled
because of the threat of inclement weather (very low temperature). We
will begin that study this week.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND - The women of the church will be having our
out of town friends in and we plan a sleep-over party at the pastor's.
All women of the church are invited to attend next weekend.

(Why don't the men get together and do something also?)

We have received information about General Conference July 19-26 in
Miami. Registration is \$130.00 before April 1 -- jumps to \$170 after
that. We will need to do fundraising to help pay for this conference.
Ideas? Please! The church will need to pay registration for the pastor
and the delegate. Dignity will hold its conference at the same time, same
city. Let's travel together, and share space. Quads are \$79.20. (\$18
per person, per day--7 nights). Registration covers Reception, 1 lunch
even, one joint dinner buffet with Dignity.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Mobile, AL 36604

(205) 476-9142

2nd Sunday in Christmas

January 3, 1988

CALL TO WORSHIP: Glorify and praise your God, O Zion

P: For God has strengthened the gates of your city and blessed the people within it.

L: God has granted peace in your borders, and filled you with the best of food.

P: God sends for commands to the earth, swiftly runs God's word!

L: God spreads snow like wool, strews frost like ashes.

P: God scatters hail like crumbs; and makes the waters freeze.

L: God sends word and melts them, lets breeze blow and the waters run.

P: God has proclaimed the word to us, the statutes and ordinances to our nation.

L: God has done this for all people.

P: Glorify and praise your God, O Zion.

OPENING HYMN: O, Come, All Ye Faithful

180

Reading from the Scriptures: Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18
John 1: 1-18

Sermon: "Empowered, Enlivened, Enriched" Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Joy to the World

179

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own
Whate'er the gift may be,
All that we have is thine alone
A trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: An Evening Prayer # 165
(This will also be our Prayer of Confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: One fact is unchanging -- God has loved you, is loving you, and will always love you. That is the good news that brings us new life. Arise, take up your life and walk...

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Arise, your light has come

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.
Passing of the Peace: L: The peace of God be with you.
P: And also with you.

Bible Study: Bible study is postponed due to Jim Farrel's being in town from National Aids Network.
Wednesday - Rap - What do you find attractive in a person?

Thursday: Deacon's training.

Our thanks to everyone who made the holiday season enjoyable - to anyone who hosted an event, to everyone who brought/contributed/cooked foods; to all of you who - in any way - helped the Buddy Program; to all who participated in worship and other events - thank you all; this has been a wonderful Christmas. Happy New Year to you all!

January Buddy Training - Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs - Rev. Ragona is the trainer. Sue Rollins will be February trainer. A new Home Nursing Course is being arranged with the Red Cross.

Pray for Ken Jones + Mr. Gilbert who are ill.

Reader #1 Ron
#2 LEE

Call to Worship - Shirley
Light Candles - Terry

Acolyte #1 Harold
#2 Chuck

Server #1 Vern
#2 Wayne

#3

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36606
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
First Sunday After Epiphany January 10, 1988
SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: The voice of our God is over the water;
the glory of God thunders over vast
waters.

P: The voice of God is mighty; the voice of God is majestic.
The voice of God breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

L: The voice of God strikes fiery flames, shakes the desert,
and makes the wilderness tremble.

P: The voice of God twists the oaks and strips the forest,
and in God's temple, all say "Glory."

L: Give God glory and praise; Give God the glory due and
adoration due God's holy name.

P: May God's people be given strength; may God's people be
blessed with peace.

OPENING HYMN: How Great Thou Art 48

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1-5
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

SERMON: ...By water and the Spirit Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Come, Holy Spirit 45

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Just A Closer Walk 64

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, find in us those places where
we truly repent and receive the confession of our hearts.
We have wounded the innocent, betrayed the just, denied the
ture and destroyed the holy. Make our sorrow real, our in-
tention valiant, or return steady. Change us; be in us the
power to love, mercy for the broken heart, healing for the
broken body, and grace for each day's journey. Whether we
stand firm against the evil that overcomes us or falter and
fall again, hold us in the enormosity of your mercy, and
recreate us in the image of your joy; through Jesus Christ
who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is
your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for
yours is the power, the reign, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Since Jesus Came Into My Heart 71

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
TUESDAY: Bible Study returns. Encounters with God is con-
tinued, with Job's "authentic God."

WEDNESDAY: Rap: "Monogamy and/or Open Relationships."

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY: The pastor and Shirley will be
in Houston for the MCC Conference of AIDS Ministry. Vern
will be taking the service on Sunday. Please support him and
each other while we are away.

MONDAY: Jan. 18th, Buddy Training. Rev. Ragona is the trainer,
sharing some of the information from the AIDS Conference and
talking about Maslow's hierarchy of needs and people with AIDS.

SUNDAY: Jan. 24th -- NEW MEMBER'S CLASS. Anyone interested
in joining the church or in finding out more about MCC is
invited to attend. 5:00 p.m. at the church.

We want to thank the church for making it possible for Shirley
and me to attend the conference in Houston. Thank you all.

Next week we will be receiving the MCC Third World (Home
missions) offering. This offering helps to support the
Third World Gay and Christian Conference and assist the work
of White People Against Racism, as well as make it possible
for Black and other Third World churches, pastors, and programs
to be funded by MCC. Please help.

There is a very urgent need for adult diapers (mainly for
Ken Jones) at this time. Can you help? They are expensive
and the Jones' family is having difficulty providing them.

Amen.

1600 Center Street

Mobile, AL 36604

Rev. Marge Ragana, Pastor

[205] 476-9142

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 17, 1988

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my
flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth
parched lifeless and without water.

P: Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power
and your glory,

L: For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall
glofify you.

P: Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I
will call upon your name.

L: As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

P: I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night-
watches I will meditate on you:

L: That you are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I
shout for joy.

OPENING HYMN:

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19
1 Corinthians 6: 13-20
John 1: 35-51

SERMON: CALLED TO BE PROPHETS, APOSTLES, SAINTS! Rev. Dahmen

HYMN: Jesus Calls Us

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs. 1)

110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: For the daylight open upon us; for the
air's tall breath that comrades beside us and is a lover within
us; for the visible ceremonies of the seasons and the invisible
dances of the heart; for the surgery of fearless minds and the
healing of compassionate hands; for suffering's wisdom and sor-
row's strength; and for thyself, present and lively, among all
sorts and conditions of your people, we give our clamorous
thanks and pray as you taught us saying: Our God in heaven, holy
is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as
it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive

us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring
us to the test but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power
the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace; Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN:

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The Peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

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The funeral services for Ken Jones were held yesterday for his
family and we, his friends, will have a memorial service for him
at a date and time to be announced.

MONDAY: Buddy Training 7:00p for new people; others 7:30p.

TUESDAY: Bible Study - Job considered

WEDNESDAY: Rap - Come and be surprised!

THURSDAY: ACOA 7:30p see John for location
PWA Support Group 7:30p at the UU's

FRIDAY:

Thank you for your support of one another during this time of
grief and sorrow for Ken. Please continue to support and pray
for our PWAs!

WE NEED!!! Canned goods and Gatorade for the Deacon's cupboard -
can YOU help????????? PLEASE??????

Last week's collection was \$210.00. Thanks!

SUNDAY: New Members Classes at 5:00p! Bring a friend!

1600 Center Street	Mobile, AL 36604
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor	(205) 476-9142
Third Sunday after Epiphany	January 24, 1988
SINGSPARATION	WELCOME
	ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Only in God be at rest, my sould, for
from God comes my hope.

P: God is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed.

L: With God is my safety and my glory. God is the rock of my strength; my refuge is in God.

P: Trust in God at all times, O ye people. Pour out your hearts before God; God is our refuge.

L: Only a breath are mortals; princes are only an illusion.
In God's balance they prove lighter, all together, than
a breath.

P: Trust not in extortion, in plunder; though they bring wealth, do not set your heart upon it.

L: One thing God has said; these two things I have heard:
Power belongs to God, and kindness also is God's.

P: God renders to all according to their deeds.

OPENING HYMN: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jonah 3:5-10
 I Corinthians 7:29-31
 Mark 1: 14-20

SERMON: The Time, the Reign, the Life Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Footsteps of Jesus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs 1.) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together 148

PRAYER OF CONVERSION: We are sorry, O God, for what we do. By small deadly sins and by large corporate sins we injure the peace of the world and turn others and ourselves away from you. We pray your forgiveness. Without you we are broken vessels. In your mercy mend us and give us over to the uses of love. Enter us so that our hands shall pray thee, our tongues sing thee, our ears hear thee, and our souls desire thee. In our brokenness, we know that you can and will make us whole. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us

our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: The Solid Rock 32

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

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MONDAY: Buddy "Care for the Caregiver." All those buddying someone or recently buddying someone are invited to come. We will also be strategizing some fund raising ideas.

TUESDAY: Pastor will be speaking to Stone Street Baptist Church adult group about AIDS. Pray for this outreach to Black Christians who support what we are doing.

WEDNESDAY: Rap -- "What's the difference between a lover, a roommate, and a friend?" (Is there overlap?)

THURSDAY: Deacon's training.

SATURDAY: Buddy training at the Red Cross, 9-5. You will need to buy or borrow a textbook, \$15.00. Pins are \$3.00. You should know by now how valuable this training is -- and you need it for your own protection as well as to help your buddy. (Also February 6th to complete the course.)

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR KEN JONES - February 6th at 7 p.m. at the church.

MOVIE NIGHT, Friday, February 5th. Pot luck, movie to be announced.

Anniversary is coming up. We need committees to decide upon the recipients of awards, committee to arrange printing of awards and plaques, and a food committee. Rev. Jimmy Brock of Orlando has agreed to be our speaker. You'll love him.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will give thanks t God with all my heart in the company of the just.
 P: Great are the works of God, exquisite in all their delights.
 L: Majesty and glory are God's work; God's justice endures forever.
 P: The works of God's hands are faithful and just; sure are all God's precepts, reliable forever, wrought in truth and equity.
 L: God has sent deliverance to the people, ratified a covenant with them forever; awesome and holy is God's name.
 P: Awe of God is the beginning of wisdom, prudent are all who live in this way. God's praise endures forever.

OPENING HYMN: Praise Be To God 195

THE READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 I Corinthians 8:1-13
 Mark 1: 21-28

SERMON: Knowing whereof we speak! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: I Will Serve Thee 42

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
 OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs 1.) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Just As I Am 37

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, in your mystery abide the world and all its people. On your compassion rests the hope and fears of all people ever brn. Your glory astonishes us. We amaze ourselves that we are so small in comparison; Evil is often in our hearts, we play at faith, we serve you casually -- as it pleases us. Like Adam, we hide when your searching finds us. O God, ransack us and spillus out into the wideness and danger of our deepest need, and there receive us in your mercy until we are wholly thine. We praise thee for thy presence, for thy Word proclaimed, for thy grace received. We praise you for the mysterious way in which you have made us, for Jesus who saved us, and for your Spirit who enlivens us. Glory to God in the highest, in the presence of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your

name. Your dminion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your heats. P: We lift them up To God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: In My Heart There Rings A Melody 15

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

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 TUESDAY: 6:00 Buddy Team Leader meeting. 7:30 Bible Study.

WEDNESDAY: Rap: What power do roles have in our lives?

THURSDAY: Deacons' Training. Embracing the Exile.

FRIDAY: Movie and Potluck Night: Any dish you care to bring is welcome. The movie is D.H.Lawrence's "Women in Love."

SATURDAY: Red Cross Home Nursing Training, Part II, at the Red Cross, downtown.

SATURDAY: 7:30 p.m. Memorial Service for Ken Jones at the church. (Following will be a short memorial service for Joe Romeo.)

Thanks to John McF. and Claudia for helping keep the building clean and tidy. Claudia needs help in moving furniture some time this week, to make the offices more usable. Thanks.

The pastor and Shirley particularly thank Claudia and Suzanne for transportation during the illness of the Honda! Thanks to everyone else who helped out, also.

Thanks to God for Lee having gotten an apartment, for Vern's new job and for many, many other blessings.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: OFFERING:

Remember the anniversary on March 11,12,13. Much work ahead.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
 1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36604
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (405) 476-9142
 6th Sunday in Epiphany February 7, 1988
 SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Happy is the one whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered.
 P: Happy is the one to whom God imputes no guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.
 L: As long as I would not speak, my bones wasted away with my groaning all the day.
 P: Day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength dried up by the heat of summer.
 L: Then I acknowledged my sin to you; I did not cover my guilt.
 P: I said, "I confess my faults to you, O God," and you took away the guilt of my sin.
 L: For this shall all the faithful pray to you in time of stress; though deep waters overflow they shall not reach us.
 P: You, O God, are my shelter; from distress you will preserve me; with glad cries of freedom you will ring me around.
 L: I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk; I will counsel you, keeping watch over you.
 P: Be not senseless like the horses or mules; with bit and bridle their temper must be curbed, else you cannot come near to them.
 L: Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but kindness surrounds one who trusts in God.
 P: Be glad in God and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

HYMN: Whosoever Meaneth Me 88

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: II Kings 5:1-14
 I Corinthians 9:24-27
 Mark 1:40-45

SERMON: Wet Wash and Dry Cleaning Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Wonderful Grace of Jesus 115

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110
 OFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Would Be True 76

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we are in you and of you, but in our lives at times it seems that something has gone awry. We are yours, but we turn away from you and try to live our lives without you. We know that this is sin, but it is also death.

for it kills a part of us that needs you. Without you we sever our ties to the source of all life. We become broken branches, dried streams, empty vessels. In our turning from you we talter and fall in broken promises and empty dreams; even our words are empty before you. We pray your mercy, your strength, your forgiveness to cleanse us, to make our way plain and to set us free. Hear us and save us. Free us and hold us. Heal and comfort us; through Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: He Keeps Me Singing 161

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +
 TUESDAY: Board meeting, at the Pastor's home.

WEDNESDAY: Rap: How my sexuality affects my life. (Not my gayness -- but sexuality itself.)

THURSDAY: Deacons Training - Embracing the Exile.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY: Alabama AIDS TASK FORCE meeting in Shelby, AL. A number of people in the Buddy Program are going to present the program there.

SUNDAY, 2/14: Joe Cain Day, Deacon's Breakfast at the Church, 11 a.m. Bring a friend before the parade.

MONDAY, 2/22 Buddy Training.

Thanks to Todd, Jerry, Roger, John McF., Terry, Suzanne, Danial and Claudia for cleaning and reorganizing the building.

1600 Center Street

Mobile, AL 36604

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 1988

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Yet even now, says your God, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, with weeping, with mourning.

P: Rend your hearts and not your garments and return to God, your God.

L: For God is merciful and gracious; slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.

P: Perhaps God will relent and leave behind a blessing, offerings and libations for your God.

L: Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call bly; gather the people, notify the congregation.

P: Assemble the elders, gather the children; let the bride and bridegroom leave their room.

L: Between the porch and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of God, weep and say, "Spare O God, your people.

P: Do not make your heritage a reproach with the nations ruling over them!

L: Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

P: I am the Lord your God, and there is no other; my people shall no more be put to shame.

OPENING CHORUS: Spirit of the Living God 116A

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: James 1:12-18
Mark 2:15-20

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 214

MEDITATION FOR LENT

If our lives have become shallow, deepen them.
If our principles have become shabby, repair them.
If our ideals have become tarnished, restore them.
If our hopes have become faded, revive them.
If our loyalties have grown dim, brighten them.
If our values have become confused, clarify them.
If our purposes have grown blurred, sharpen them.
If our horizons have become narrowed, widen them.
If our vision has lost sight of Jesus, open our eyes.

THE CONSECRATION OF ASHES

Almighty and ever-living God; you hate nothing that you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you full pardon and forgiveness.

Through Jesus the Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

THE DISPENSING OF ASHES

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs 1) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

HYMN: Cleanse Me 102

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: L: Have mercy upon me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my sin.
P: Wash me of my guilt and cleanse me of my offenses.

T: For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me.
P: Against you I have sinned and done what is evil in your sight -- that you may be justified in your sentence and vindicated when you condemn.

L: Behold you are please with sincerity of heart and in my inmost being you teach me wisdom.
P: Cleanse me of sin with hyssop that I may be purified. Wash me, and the snow will not be brighter.

L: Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness; the bones you have crushed shall rejoice.

P: Turn away your face from my evil and blot out all my guilt.

L: A clean heart create for me, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

P: Do not cast me out of your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.

L: Restore to me the joy of my salvation and a willing spirit sustain in me.

P: Free me from bloodguiltiness, O god, and my tongue shall reveal your greatness.

L: O God, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise; for you are not pleased with holocausts and sacrifices.

P: My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.

Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Amazing Grace 33

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

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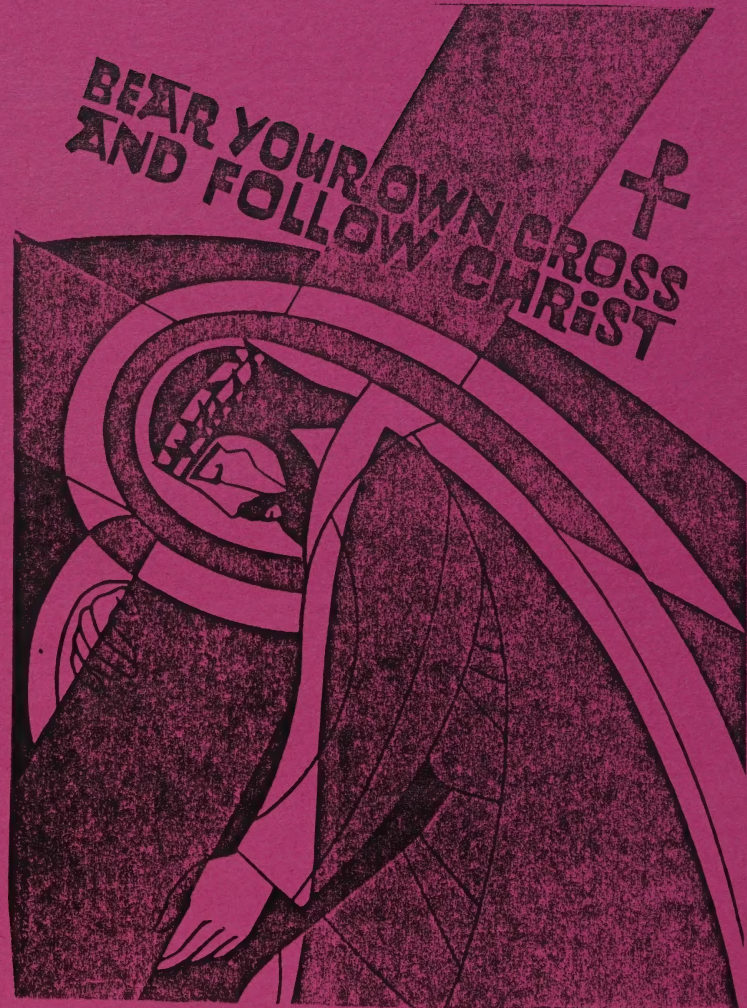
Please remember the Memorial Service for Ken Jones on Friday evening at 7:30. If you can, bring a rose.

MONDAY: Buddy Training: Sue Rollins is the trainer.

WEDNESDAY: The pastor will be speaking to the League of Women Voters concerning AIDS, 12 Noon at the Hilton.

FRIDAY: 3/4 - Movie Night.

REMEMBER THE ANNIVERSARY: Dinner will be at the Unitarian-Universalists, cost will be \$10.00. Speaker will be Rev. Jimmy Brock, Joy MCC, Orlando, Florida. We think you will enjoy him.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
1600 Center Street Mobile AL 36604
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205)476-9142
February 28, 1988 Second Sunday in Lent

OPENING HYMN: O Worship Our God (Vs.1 and 3) 40

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Invoke God's name and give praise; make
known God's deeds among the nations.

P: Sing to God -- sing praise to God; proclaim God's wondrous deeds.

L: Glory and rejoice in God's holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek our God.

P: Look to God's strength; seek to serve God constantly.

L: Recall God's deeds, portents and the judgments God has uttered.

P: You are our God; throughout the earth your judgements prevail.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Mark 8: 31-38

SERMON: There is no Free Lunch Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone? (Vs.1-2) 163

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(After each prayer request, the congregation will say, "God, hear our prayer.")

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

HYMN: I'm So Glad I'm A Part of The Family of God
(Chorus only) 73

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, gracious and good and forever abiding, how can you suffer us, your lukewarm people, who toward your sweet persuasions blow neither hot nor cold? Why do you wait upon us who will not turn, who will not turn to you for love, and so from fear to trust, from sin to grace, from death to endlessness? How do you bear with us, day by day who go indolent before you? O shake us down to earth! And then by mercy enliven us to live toward you and bend our flesh to adoration and our souls to praise. Surround and invade us with your Spirit, until we behold you and are made glad by your goodness set within us. Then turn us to receive your blessing upon our lives and your strength upon our purposes. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray. saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion

come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power the reign and the glory forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Take The Name Of Jesus With You. 140
(Vss. 2 and 3)

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The Peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

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MONDAY: Buddy Caretakers Meeting -- All those currently with a buddy are welcome to attend.

TUESDAY: Lenten Bible Study - Responsibility.

WEDNESDAY: Rap - Second in our series on the body.: "What am I saying with my body?" (Nonverbal communication.)

THURSDAY: Deacon Training.

ANNIVERSARY: Remember plans for the Anniversary Dinner -- It will be at the Unitarians and will be catered by Chip's mother. We will be meeting with committees this week to get out invitations, to decide on awards, and to get serving and cleanup committees under way. Please help when you are contacted. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the coffee hour.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Spring district conference will be at Charleston, S.C. the weekend of April 29-May 1. Registration forms are available for those wishing to attend. Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson will be there, leading a workshop called "Everything you wanted to know about the Fellowship, but were afraid to ask."

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36604

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205)476-9142

Third Sunday in Lent March 6, 1988

OPENING HYMN: How Great Thou Art (Vs.1,3) 48

L: The law of God is perfect, refreshing the soul. The decree of God is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.
P: The precepts of God are are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of God is clear, enlightening the eye.
L: Reverence for God is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of God are true, and all are just.
P: They are more precious than God, even the purest gold; Sweeter than syrup or honey in the comb.
L: Though your servant is careful of keeping them, yet who can detect my failings? Cleanse me from my unknown faults.
P: From wanton sin restrain me, that it not become my ruler; Then I shall be blameless and innocent of serious sin.
Tog: May the words of my mouth and the testimony of my heart find favor before you, O God, my rock and my redeemer.

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2: 13-22

SERMON: A most expensive pigeon... Rev. Ragona

HYMN: In The Cross of Christ I Glory 47

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FOLLOWED BY THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:
God, we need to be centered down to reality, but we are afraid. Show us who we really are -- made in your image and likeness and teach us not to settle for being less. Teach us to seek for joy rather than pleasure; to value wonder more than curiosity; mystery more than make-believe. Center us on salvation and make us aware that you love us as we are, but seek and will our growth. By love persuade us, by forgiveness heal us, and by mercy resurrect us. In the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power and the reign and the glory, now and forever." Amen

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: PASS IT ON 49

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

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ANNIVERSARY DINNER - Saturday Evening, 7:00 p.m. at the UU Fellowship at 6345 Old Shell Road. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the coffee hour. Chip's mom is catering the dinner, and people tell me she is a fantastic cook!!

TUESDAY: Lenten Bible Study - Sexual Sin or Something Else?? (Is sexuality sinful in and of itself -- according to the Bible, or is something else going on? Come and read and study with us.

WEDNESDAY: RAP. "Flirting -- Using my body to entice" (We have called this rap, "The Fine Art of Cruising" also!!)

FRIDAY: Church Leadership social with Rev. Jimmy Brock. All Board members, deacons, Buddy team leaders are welcome at the Pastor's. Informal time to talk with Rev. Brock about churches, the fellowship, and dream aloud about the future.

SUNDAY: Our Third Anniversary Worship Service. Tell your friends and those who've been absent that they will not want to miss this one. Rev. Brock is funny, profound, learned, and very wise. You'll be glad you came.

BOARD MEETING: There will be a short meeting after the service to finalize plans for Saturday and Sunday.

FLEA MARKET: Once the Anniversary dinner is over, we need to set a date and plan our spring yard sale. Any one interested in helping please see Karen and Diane after the service.

FUNERAL FOR DAVID ALLDAY: David's funeral will be Monday, 3:30 p.m. at Roche-Belmany and he will be buried in Colorado. We ask your prayers for his mother, grandmother and brother.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street

Mobile, AL 36604

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

5th Sunday in Lent

March 20, 1988

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and
renew a steadfast spirit within me.

P: Do not cast me away from your presence, nor take your
Holy Spirit from me.

L: Restore to me the joy of my salvation and sustain me
with a willing spirit.

P: Then I will teach transgressors your ways and they will
be converted to you.

L: Free me from blood guilt, O my saving God, and I shall
revel in your justice.

P: O God, Open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your
praise.

L: For you are not pleased with sacrifices; should I offer
a burnt offering you would not accept it.

P: My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a heart
contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.

OPENING HYMN: Love Divine 127

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 12:20-33

SERMON: We Would See Jesus Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Be Thou My Vision(Vs. 1,2,4) 137

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - We Give Thee But Thine Own(Vs.1) 110
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Living For Jesus (Vs.1,2) 75

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, evil plays havoc with us all. We
feel the storms of anger, greed, pride. We know lust and
gluttony and are ashamed that we are not better. Worse, we
confess the lukewarm sins: cliché righteousness, winking at
lies, adoration of stupidity, sneers at grace, boredom with
eternity. O God, send us the true calm of mercy and redeem
us in the liveliness of love. Let the tired run in You,
the angered speak peace, and those tangled in darkness de-
clare the light. In You, we shall all know the time of
rejoicing -- for daily we live in you, and by your grace, we
may live for you. Through Jesus the Christ, we taught us to
pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name; your
dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as
we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the
test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the
reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Jesus Saves 35

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

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Monday: Buddy Training -- 6:30 active Buddies for new forms.
7:30 all buddies- trainer: Beth Klein, Infectious Disease
Control. "How to protect ourselves."

TUESDAY: Bible Study: The 'Social Justice Prophets' idea
of sin.

WEDNESDAY: Rap: Topic: Political Awareness for Gays, 101.

FRIDAY: Larry and Richard's Blessing on their relationship.
The church family is invited to participate. Refreshments
at the pastor's home following the ceremony.

Monday, 3/28. The Buddy Program will be honored by the
National Association of Social Workers, Mobile Unit. Anyone
wishing to attend may. Dinner cost is \$15.50 at Pete Rousso's.
Shirley needs to know by Wednesday afternoon. Please leave
message if we are not at home.

Your prayers are sought for Chuck Torrey, whose mother died
last Sunday evening. Also Derek and Danny request prayer for
their buddy who is moving to New Orleans.

Please be gathering "junque" for the Great American Yard Sale,
to be held as soon after Easter as possible. Please see
Karen and Diane if you need things picked up.

Do we want an Easter Dawn service, if so, where?

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36604
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142

EASTER SUNDAY April 3, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: My strength and my courage is my God
 who has been my savior.

P: I shall not die, but live and declare the works of God.

L: Although God has chastised me, yet I have not been delivered to death.

P: Open to me the gates of justice; I will enter them and give thanks to God.

L: This is the gate of God -- the just shall enter it.

P: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

L: By God has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

P: This is the day which God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN: Christ the Lord is Risen Today 218

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 25; 6-9
 John 20: 1-18

SERMON: A Most Unlikely Story Rev. Ragona

HYMN: I Danced in the Morning 239

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: There Is A Green Hill 235

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, how can we come before you for forgiveness, when we so rarely approach you with praise? We have been busy with the art of self-pity, the enjoyment of our angers, the feeding of our prejudices. We have wasted our days and dreaded our nights. We are often baffled, troubled at heart, and feel useless. Turn us now from the idolatry of ourselves to the plain path, to a trust in you, and transform us by your forgiveness into new people, validly alive at all times because we are alive in you. Through Jesus the Living Christ, who taught us to pray, saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: And also with you.

P: We lift them up to God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: He Lives 216

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +
 We have a serious need for a buddy for a man who needs transportation to his doctor and needs befriending. Please, please, consider being this man's friend!

WEDNESDAY: Rap: How Can I Be Happier?

MONDAY: Buddy Cares and Planning Meeting: 7:30 at the Pastor and Shirley's.

TUESDAY: No Bible Study. Garage sale planning meetings.

FRIDAY: Organizing the yard sale -- please be at the church and help us get organized; we need pricers, sign makers, etc.

SATURDAY: GREAT AMERICAN YARD SALE -- at the church. 8:00 a.m.
 We need you there at 7 if you are helping.

WE THANK M&S PIANO AND ORGAN CENTER AT BEL AIR MAL FOR THE USE OF THE PORTABLE KEYBOARD USED THIS MORNING.

REMEMBER DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON APRIL 29,30, May 1 in Charleston, S.C.

We will be planning an Auction to raise money for the buddy program. We are asking each of you to take five letters and send them to your friends, asking for an item each to sell at the auction.

We thank the fund-raising committee for their help in planning the year's fund raising and helping to stabilize the Buddy Program's financial status.

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street Mobile, AL. 36604
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 April 11, 1988 1st Sunday After Easter
 SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Alleluia from the heavens, Praise God in the heights.

P: Alleluia, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts.

L: Alleluia, sun and moon; Praise God all you shining stars.

P: Alleluia, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens.

L: Let them praise the name of God, for at God's command they were created.

P: God established them forever and ever, giving them a duty which shall not pass away.

L: Praise God from the earth, sea monsters and all depths:

P: Fire and hail, snow and mist; storm winds that fulfill God's word;

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and cedars;

P: Wild beasts and tame animals, creeping things and winged fowl.

L: Let the rulers of the earth and all peoples, princes and judges of the earth;

P: Young men and maidens, old men and little children, Praise the name of God, for God's name is exalted.

L: God's majesty is above earth and heaven, and God has lifted up salvation for the people.

P: Be this praise from all God's faithful ones, the children of Israel, the people close to God.

OPENING HYMN: Our God Has Made This World 159

READING FRM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:32-35
 I John 1:1 - 2:2
 John 20:19-31

SERMON: Doubt your doubts, fear your fears Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart 82

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Doxology 132

COMMUNION HYMN: Pass Me Not 131

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, enter our hearts with light. Be morning to our dar and daylight to our fears. Make us aware of our weaknesses and give us strength. When our faith is tired and our will made feeble by fear, enliven us with such trust in you that our prayers become honest and our lives are restored. Warm us with forgiveness fr each other. Ready us

for the wounds we must bear, and surround us with your overarching love until our hands are turned to compassion, our minds to reason and our hearts to trust. Praise be to you, O God, forever and ever; through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your namde, you dominion cme, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Pass It On

49

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The Peace of God go with you. And also with you.

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 WEDNESDAY: Rap: How I deal with anger.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO WORKED ON THE YARD SALE: We made \$346.00 for the church and the Buddy Program -- divided evenly. Those who helped were: Karen, Diane, Chuck, Vic and LeighAnn, Suzanne, Chip, Rick, Joseph, John M., Iris, Pat, Sherry, Priscilla, John P., William, Mike B., Judson, Lee, Tony, Tom, Marge and Shirley. Special thanks go to Grace and Evelyn for the remainders from the Mobile AIDS Fund garage sale. Thanks also to everyone who brought and bought -- Ray M., Bob H., Gary and Roland and others who were very kind.

SPECIAL THANKS: Lynda Gilbert donated three cases of Coke to the church, which is now on sale in the referigerator. Please remember to pay your \$.50 for a coke, that way we can keep Coke available, especially in the summer.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS to Harold and Roger for the lawn care today and to John McF. for cleaning the church after the yard sale. (Stars in your crowns!!!)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36604
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
3rd Sunday in Easter April 17, 1988
SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Why do you love what is vain and seek after falsehood?

P: Know that God does wonders for the faithful and hears us when we call.

L: Many say, "Oh that we may see better times!" O God, let the light of your countenance shine upon us!

P: You put gladness into my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

L: As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep;

P: For you, O God, bring security to my dwelling.

OPENING HYMN: Beulah Land 13

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:12-19
I John 3:1-7
Luke 24: 36-49

SERMON: Not By Our Own Power Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Day of Resurrection 215

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Doxology 132
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Breathe On Me, Breath of God 303

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, you have returned us from our separate darknesses and awakened us from spiritual sleep; you have called us into your daylight and given us hope. Let our prayers come unto you, fragile and broken though we may be, until our falsehoods tangle with your truth and our vanity is shaken by your power. Teach us that every day is a gift; every love is a gift; every hope is a gift; for in them you give yourself over and over, forever and ever. Make us restless for your peace within our hearts and for your righteousness within our souls. In the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven: Holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Higher Ground 52

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

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MONDAY: BUDDY TRAINING will be AT THE RED CROSS. Buddies will be taking the Red Cross presenter's training. All are invited. 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: RAP - Loneliness: What it is; how I deal with it.

Tuesday night the pastor is speaking to the Social Workers in Mobile with the topic "Family Secrets." The two family secrets we are working with are homosexuality and drug addiction as preludes to AIDS. Pray that we may educate the people who can help all families affected by AIDS.

REMEMBER THE COMING AUCTION: If you have an item that might be suitable, let us know, so we can begin to collect these items.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 29-MAY 1. Anyone wishing to attend must let us know immediately. Is anyone but the pastor going???

Thanks to Harold and Roger for cutting the grass at the pastor's and Shirley's home. It is very much appreciated.

There is a new magazine for Gay Christians called Cornerstone. A copy is available. If you would like to subscribe, we can get special group rates. It is done mainly by MCC folk in California, but carries news of Dignity and other groups as well. Take a look at it!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 4th Sunday of Easter
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mobile, AL 36604
 (205) 476-9142
 April 24, 1988

CALL TO WORSHIP: You, God, are my shepherd; I shall not want.
 P: You lead me beside green pastures; you refresh my soul.
 L: You guide my in right paths, for your name's sake.
 P: Even though I walk through the dark valley, I fear no evil, for you are at my side.
 L: Your rod and your staff give me courage.
 P: You spread a table before me in the sight of my enemies;
 L: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
 P: Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;
 Tog: And I shall dwell in the house of God forever.

HYMN: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 24

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:8-12
 I John 3:18-24
 John 10:11-18

SERMON: I Have Power to Pick Up My Life and Lay It Down
 Rev. Ragona

HYMN: I will Sing the Wondrous Story 139

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
 OFFERTORY - DOXOLOGY 132
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: An Evening Prayer 165

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Sometimes, God, we are lost in the dark. We stumble over our own conceit. We trip over our pride. We do not see; but worse, we do not want to see. Many times we are afraid to show mercy, to act out compassion, to cry out to another our forgiveness and love. O may Jesus Christ, who forgave those who crucified him and showed mercy on all sorts of unhappy and hurting people, teach us the love, like faith, overcomes mountains. Come to us this day and be in us and make us alive and whole again. Through Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: He Keeps Me Singing 161

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

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MONDAY: Buddy "Care for the Caregivers." All active buddies are asked to attend.

TUESDAY: Planning for the 40 hour Prayer Vigil Memorial Day Weekend. Anyone interested in helping, please attend, 7:30.

WEDNESDAY: rap - "How I can love myself!"

FRIDAY-SUNDAY: The pastor will be at District Conference in South Carolina. Anyone interested in attending is asked to let us know immediately.

CHURCH RECREATION NEWS: We have baseball bats and softballs available, if any of you want to play. Please see Judson for information.

There will be a congregational meeting, Sunday, May 8th. Business will include replacing two board members and looking at our budget. Also, there will be time for members to discuss 'the state of the church.' This will follow the service that night.

The Auction for the Buddy Program has been postponed until June (maybe in connection with Gay Pride Month??)

Howell Heflin is having an open meeting at McGill-Toolen High School on Monday, May 2, 1988 at 1:30 p.m. This might be the time to ask some of the questions buddies and others need to ask about the government's care of people with AIDS -- like questions about Medicaid waivers or general relief for single adults. Also Heflin's stand on the Kennedy Health Care bill would be interesting to ask about. He's our senator, too.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center St. Mobile, Al.36604
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 5th Sunday of Easter April 31, 1988

SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: They who seek God shall praise God:

P: "May your hearts be ever merry!"

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to God.

P: All the families of the nations shall bow before God.

L: For dominion is God's, and God rules the nations.

P: To God alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth.

L: Before God shall bend all who go down into the dust.

TOG: And to God my soul shall live.

HYMN: From All That Dwell Below The Skies P 85

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE:

I John 4:7-12

John 15:1-8

SERMON: Fruits of the Vine S. Lambert

HYMN: Make Me A Blessing P 59

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY-DOXOLOGY P 132

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Come, Holy Spirit P 45

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, the infection of sin is in us all; we are weak with the maladies of little pride and little hates and little fears. Our faith has a palsy, our hope aparalysis, and our love a chill; and for too long we have tranquilized our sick souls on pink pills and barley water. Be surgeon to us, and with the knife of your grace cut us to the marrow, and with the medicines of your mercy make us whole; through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray, saying, " Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/ THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Love Lifted Me P 66

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

WEDNESDAY: Rap-- Are you what you wear?????

TUESDAY??? Prayer Vigil Meeting??

Monday Free night to work on grant proposals for the Buddy program.

Thursday More work on grant proposals.

FRIDAY Night-off. Marge and Shirley will celebrate Anniversary No. 3. and you thought it wouldn't last.

NEWS: The Buddy Program has received a \$2500.00 grant from CDC and the Dept. of Public Health to write and publish a Client/ Resource Handbook about AIDS.

Saturday: Marge and ??? travel to Montgomery for yet another meeting of Community Based Aids Org. and the Dept. of Public Health.

To everyone traveling, God's protection. To those that are away from home, God and our love be with you. Last, but certainly not least, to those that are not around too often or nèt around, period, we miss you.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

1600 Center Street
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 Sixth Sunday in Easter
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME

Mobile, AL 36604
 (205) 476-9142
 May 8, 1988
 ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Sing joyfully to God, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.

P: Sing praise to God with a harp and with melodious song; with trumpets and the sound of the horn, sing joyfully before our God.

L: Let the sea and what fills it resound, the world and those that dwell in it;

P: Let the rivers clap their hands, the mountains shout with them for joy before our God.

L: For God comes to rule the earth.

P: God will rule the earth with justice and the people with equity.

OPENING HYMN: Praise Be to God, the Almighty 195

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Acts 10:44-48
 I John 5:1-6
 John 15:9-17

SERMON: Friends and Lovers Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God 166

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC - AT CALVARY

OFFERTORY - THE DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

MIKE AND JUDSON 132

COMMUNION HYMN: What a Friend We Have in Jesus 178

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we come to you for mercy and for healing: We need to be forgiven. We have stumbled in the dark and sinned. We have lived with fears of you and of ourselves. We are weary of the things that have drawn us away from you and tired of seeking things that really do not satisfy. We are not at peace with you or ourselves; we are not at peace with others. Overcome us and restore us to you, for in you there is peace and health and a clear path. Let your glory abound in us, for we are yours. To you is all majesty, honor, power and praise through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, Our God in heaven: Holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: And also with you.

P: We lift them up to God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Christ is the Truth, the Way 243

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

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Your prayers are sought for Shirley who is on her way to Washington today to take part in a major national conference sponsored by the Public Health Department on AIDS. Her way was paid by the government (for which we are thankful), and she will be away until Wednesday evening. Pray for this conference, please.

TUESDAY: AIDS PRAYER VIGIL MEETING. Anyone involved in any way is asked to attend this meeting. Please sign up at the coffee hour for the time you are willing to give during the three days or evenings of the Vigil.

WEDNESDAY: Rap --- POWER.

THURSDAY: GRANT WRITING NIGHT.

FRIEDAY: The pastor will be speaking to the Recreational Therapists about working with people with AIDS.

SATURDAY: A group of us are going to New Orleans to the Names Project. Others wishing to make up another carful, please get together at coffee hour.

MONDAY: Buddy Training. Relaxation Techniques with Linda Gilbert, recreation therapist. All buddies are asked to attend for their own good and to help their buddies. These techniques work as much for you as they do for someone who is ill. Also, we will view a case management tape.

Buddies are asked to be working on their portions of the handbook, which has been funded by the State Dept. of Health at \$2500. Praise be to God!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
1600 Center Street Mobile, AL 36604
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142

7th Sunday of Easter May 15, 1988
SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Happy is the person who follows not the
counsel of the wicked
P: Nor walks in the way of sinners, nor sits in the com-
pany of the insolent,
L: But delights in the law of God and meditates on the law
day and night.
P: They are like trees planted near running water, that
yields their fruit in due season, and whose leaves
never fade.
L: For God watches over the ways of the just,
TOG: But the way of the wicked vanishes.

HYMN: I WILL SERVE THEE 42

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26
I John 5: 9-13
John 17: 11b-19

SERMON Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Church Within Us 227

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY-DOXOLOGY 132
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Cleanse Me 102

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we move through a world with a
blurred vision, seeing it upside down, crooked, & contrawise.
Pledged to self-interest, we make molehills into mountains
& mountains into molehills. We set up the briar trees of
self-pity & do not see the climbing forests of thy grace.
O thou who art the true light of all humankind, keep us
from stumbling in our own darkness. We ask in the name of
Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in
heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will
be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
deliver us from evil: for yours is the power, the reign
and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
E: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God
thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is
risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Sweet, Sweet Spirit 111

BENEDICTION: God go with you P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
Monday: Buddy Training with Linda Gilbert. She will
teach us some easier ways to deal with our stress & grief.

TUESDAY: Prayer Vigil Meeting. 7:30 at Reed Ave.

Wednesday: Rap

Thursday: Open Grant writing continues

Friday: Celebrate with Lee on his birthday at Show-biz
Pizza. Sounds like a "fun" evening. RSVP by Wed. 479-
6047.

As soon as our Treasurer returns from his work assignment
in Huntsville, the Congregational Meeting will be
rescheduled.

JUNE approaches rapidly. Gay Pride planning time is here.

Newsletter time is also here. John Pettibone is in
charge. If you want anything in it, better hurry.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. BOX 6068 Mobile, AL 30660
 Rev. Marge Ragana, Pastor (205) 476- 9142
 Pentecost Sunday May 22, 1988

SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: The voice of God is over the waters, the God of glory thunders;

P: The voice of God is mighty, majestic, breaking the cedars.

L: God makes the earth leap like a calf or a young bull.

P: The voice of God strikes fiery flames, shakes the desert, and twists the wilderness.

L: The voice of God uproots the oaks and strips the forest, and all in God's temple cry, "Glory."

P: Give God glory and praise; give God the praise which is due; adore God in holy attire.

L: God is enthroned above the flood; enthroned as ruler forever.

P: May God give strength to the people; may God bless us with peace!

OPENING HYMN: Great is thy Faithfulness 174

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 6: 1-8
 Romans 8: 14-17
 John 3:1-17

SERMON: Beloved, Bought, and Breathed Into Rev.Ragona

HYMN: Holy, Holy 11

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Spirit of The Living God 116a

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we have sinned against you and against our neighbor, but most often we have sinned against ourselves. We have been clever rather than kind, respectable rather than real, practical rather than penetrating. We have been cynical about holy things, and out of the poverty of our own vision, scoffed at the riches of faith. O God, teach us awe before your holy mysteries. Encourage us in the risks of compassion toward all people and toward one another, but most of all toward ourselves. Take our meager, beaten, self-pitying souls and by your grace give them substance, generosity, victory and trust; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dminion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the

test but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen."

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Love Divine 127

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And als with you.

+ + + + +
 MONDAY: 7:30 -- Care for the Caregivers. Please bring the part of the manual you are working on with you. We need very quickly to check on progress.

TUESDAY: Grants.

WEDNESDAY: Rap: A series of raps begins leading up to Gay Pride Week. First: "W/hat does being Gay mean to me?"

THURSDAY: Grants.

FRIDAY: AIDS Vigil begins at 7:00 p.m. with opening worship. The church will be open all weekend for prayer, meditation, education and discussion. We will also be making memorial panels for Ken Jones, David Allday, Jack Marlowe and any of YOUR friends whom you would like to memorialize for the Names Project.

SATURDAY: A full day of education and training around AIDS. See attached schedule.

SUNDAY: Prayer and healing of grief surrounding AIDS.

MONDAY: AIDS Vigil (Memorial Day) in Bienville Square.

Please check the mealtime schedules, and recognize that we need some pots of soup, some cakes or cookies, and items for a potluck supper. There are signup sheets on the bulletin board. Please help make this weekend memorable for everyone. (We know some of you will be away or beaching, but you can't bake in the sun all weekend without getting sick.) HELP!!!

May 22, 1988

- 1 Shelby
- 2 Marge
- 3 ~~Ray~~
- 4 John McS.
- 5 Vic
- 6 Bob
- 7 ~~Luc~~
- 8 Mike Berman
- 9 Mary
- 10 Larry Renter
- 11 John R.
- 12 Suzanne
- 13 John S.
- 14 Terry Parnell
- 15 Steve Mohr
- 16 James M.
- 17 Charlie R.
- 18 Chip McNeill
- 19 Sue
- 20 Pat
- 21 Doc March
- 22 Muel
- 23 Roger
- 24 Pat R.
- 25 Greg
- 26 Vern

27

28

29

Raph

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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. BOX 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

MEMORIAL VIGIL

May 27, 1988

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Sing joyfully to God our strength; acclaim the God of our ancestors.

P: Take up a melody, and sound the timbrel, the pleasant harp and the lyre.

L: Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our solemn feast;

P: For it is a statute in Israel, an ordinance of our God, who made it a decree when we came forth from the land of Egypt.

L: "I relieved your shoulder from the burden; your hands were freed from the basket."

P: In distress we called and were rescued; unseen, God answered in the thunder.

L: Hear, my people, and I will correct you; O Israel, will you not hear me?

P: There shall be no strange God among you, nor shall you worship any alien God.

L: I, the Lord, am your God who led you forth from the land of Egypt;

P: Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

OPENING HYMN: God Will Take Care of You 23

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

II Corinthians 4:5- 12

Mark 2: 23-28

SERMON: Knocked down but not knocked out! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 89

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Doxology 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: May Jesus Christ Be Praised 112

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we live not so much in the light or the darkness as in the gray middle, the meager, the half-felt, the half-known, the half-delighted. Our favorite word is "more." We are afraid of sorrow and do not recognize joy. Afraid of roots and depth, we have no tree, no height. O God, shake down the paper houses that we hide in and spill us out on the ground of your strength. Release us from fear and set us free in trust. Unfasten our souls that we may come alive and grow within your giant love; through Jesus the

Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name; your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Christ For the World We Sing 58

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you

PASSING

The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

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Plan on attending as many functions as possible. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

It is very important that as many of us as possible attend the Candlelight Memorial Monday evening in Bienville Square. Please bring a candle for each person you wish to remember.

Gay Pride month is almost here. Activities need to be formalized.

Many thanks to a host of people for their untiring efforts in putting this weekend together. Marge, Chip and Joseph are especially to be thanked.

Our efforts in our city are still in the infancy stages, but so many of you have built a foundation, a strong foundation of support, love and compassion for our PWA's. Too often we forgot to offer our thank-yous. What a special group you are, church folks and buddies alike. To that small group of support professional that work with us and for us, our unending thanks, as well.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 Third Sunday after Pentecost June 8, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Hear, O God, my cry; listen to my prayer!
 P: From the earth's end I call to you as my heart grows faint.
 L: You will set me high upon a rock; you will give me rest,
 for you are my refuge, a tower of strength against the
 enemy.
 P: Oh, that I might lodge in your house forever and take
 refuge in the shelter of your wings!
 L: So will I sing the praises of your name forever,
 P: And fulfill my vows day by day.

OPENING HYMN: How Firm a Foundation 141

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 32:23-31
 II Corinthians 4:13-18
 Mark 3:20-35

SERMON: The Unseen Rev. Ragona

HYMN: I'm Not Afraid Anymore 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - We Give Thee But Thine Own 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Will Serve Thee 234

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, for all within us that has
 wounded and harmed others, we ask pardon. For the malice in
 us and the jealousy, for the cold heart and the hot temper,
 we ask pardon. For our part in the general misery of humanity
 and for our particular part in the unhappiness of those closest
 to us, we ask pardon. We ask forgiveness for our deaf ears
 that will not hear and our blind eyes that will not see; awaken
 our compassion, strengthen our love, keep us in faith. Send
 us forth where others cry out and hearts are broken and people
 long for the mercy that only God can give. We thank you for
 Jesus who came to save and set free and who taught us to pray
 saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion
 come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
 this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive
 those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
 deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and
 the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, hold God of power and grace: Heaven and
 earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed
 is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
 highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD-THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 89

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

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We thank all who made it possible for this to be a week of
 rest and study for the pastor and Shirley. We have had some
 rest and the school term is coming to a close. This week
 Shirley still needs to study, please bear with us.

GRANTS: We will know by June 7th if we have been included
 in the state-wide Robert Wood Johnson grant. Please be in
 prayer that those needs will be met and the the RWJ Fund will
 see fit to make the grant to UAB, along with all the other
 agencies named in the grant.

WEDNESDAY: RAP, "Oppression Sickness." What does oppression
 do to us or compel us to do to ourselves? Let's talk about
 it and by naming our fears expel them.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: June 22nd, immediately following
 the service, we will meet in our semiannual congregational
 meeting. We need to replace Board members who have left
 and set our priorities for the rest of the year.

CANOE TRIP: Judson is planning another Pride Month canoe
 trip. If you are interested see him. We are also planning
 a picnic for Gay Pride Saturday, June 28. Where?

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS - We have been asked to begin another
 new members' class. If you are interested in joining the
 church or finding out more about MCC's beliefs or practices,
 please speak to Rev. Marge after the service.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragana, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 Fourth Sunday After Pentecost June 12, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

P: Therefore, we fear not, though the earth be shaken and the mountains plunge into the depths of the sea;

L: Tho' the waters rage and foam and the mountains quake at its surging.

P: The God of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of our forebears.

L: There is a stream whose runlets gladden the city of God; God is in its midst; it shall not be disturbed.

P: God will help it at the break of dawn.

L: Though nations are in turmoil, kingdoms totter, God's voice is heard, and the earth melts away.

P: The God of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of our ancestors.

OPENING HYMN: Beulah Land 13

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 17:22-24
 II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17
 Mark 4:26-34

SERMON: What is Greatness? Rev. Ragana

HYMN: Christ Is The Truth, The Way 243

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee 26

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, sometimes we are sorry Christians; we confess that we have connived, swaggered, hated, abused, lied -- mainly to honor ourselves. We have been busy with being busy, or we have settled into the soggy status quo. We don't like to be disturbed by challenges to live our our Christianity or to be caught up in your holy mysteries that come tumbling across the hours and days. We have let our souls and consciences sleep. Awaken us to your glory. Forgive our sins of omission. Keep us in your grace. Persuade us out of darkness into your marvelous light by the teachings of Jesus' whose prayer we pray: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in

heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil." For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. L: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. L: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy; God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Pass It On 49

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

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MONDAY: Buddy Meeting to work on the patient handbook. Each person who has a part of the handbook is asked to be at this meeting.

WEDNESDAY: Rap - Lateral Oppression. How we oppress each other as men and women, as gay and straight people, as black and white people. How we can stop doing this to ourselves and others.

THURSDAY: Planning for the Gay Pride Week picnic. Anyone interested, please be at the pastor's at 7:30.

SUNDAY: June 19th - Congregational Meeting. Treasurer and Clerk's reports need to be ready by 6/17 for duplication. Agenda items need to be given to the pastor by 6/17.

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS - Begins 6/26 for four weeks at 5:00 p.m.

PRAYERS ARE SOUGHT FOR THE BUDDY PROGRAM GRANTS. THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON GRANT COULD HAVE SALARIES FOR FIVE PERSONS FOR THREE YEARS!! PLEASE PRAY ABOUT THIS THAT GOD'S WILL FOR OUR BUDDIES AND FOR MOBILE BE DONE.

ALSO PRAY ABOUT OTHER THINGS-- A HOSPICE FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS, A SMALL LOCAL GRANT FOR EQUIPMENT, AND TWO GRANTS FOR MEDICATION FOR OUR BUDDIES WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
5th Sunday After Pentecost June 19, 1988
SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: Great is our God and wholly to be praised; renowned is God as a stronghold.
P: Go about Zion, make the round; count the towers.
L: Consider the ramparts, examine the castles;
P: So that you can tell a future generation that such is God,
L: Our God is forever and ever;
P: God will guide us.

OPENING HYMN: Lead On, O Cloud of Yahweh 212

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Job 38:1-11
II Corinthians 5:14-21
Mark 5:35-41

SERMON: Peace in the Middle of the Tempest Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Master, The Tempest is Raging Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - DOXOLOGY 132
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Amazing Grace 33

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we are tangled up in our usual knots and snarls. We become anxious over many things that do not matter. We are surfeited by fats and honeys and our minds and hearts are cushioned by the too easy. We are wooed and often won by the comfortable lie. We gain the whole world and lose our souls. When our ease is disturbed we are troubled, terrored, torn. Come, gracious God. Cut the sagging web, untie the knots, make taut the guidelines that we may shake ourselves free from softness and walk the land in power; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Now On Land And Sea Descending Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

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MONDAY: Buddy Training will be held at the pastor's residence. Please come at 7:30. Our trainer will be Michael Brock talking about communication and listening skills.

WEDNESDAY: Rap "Activism" -- another in our series of raps around Gay Liberation themes.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Immediately following the service tonight we will have our semiannual congregational meeting. We need to fill our Board seats, make some plans for the church's future and make some fairly important decisions regarding our corporate life. Please try to stay for the meeting.

Thank you to the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship for responding to our crisis and permitting us to meet here tonight, and to all of you for being so willing to live life on the cutting edge -- with no guarantees, except that God loves us and we maintain our concern for each other even in the midst of crisis. Thank you all.

Thanks to Judson for organizing the men's canoe trip. We here it was just that -- a trip!

Gay Pride fundraiser for the Buddy Program next Sunday at the Octagon, 10:30 p.m. Stay up and have fun with us all!

Gay Pride activities will be going on downtown; please check with them for the schedule. We will have a Fourth of July Liberation Day picnic -- July 3rd. Further notice of where by next week.

Keep in touch with the answering machine. It will let you know our plans as we know them. Be in prayer for many of the plans being made. Remember the Building Fund and keep your pledge. We need it NOW.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. BOX 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 Sixth Sunday After Pentecost June 26, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

P: May your good spirit guide me that I shall walk on level ground.

L: For your name's sake, O God, preserve me; in your justice free me from distress.

P: In your kindness make null my enemies, bring to nought all my foes, for I am your servant.

OPENING HYMN: PRAISE THE LORD 34

READING FRM THE SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 2:2-5
 II Corinthians 12:1-10
 Mark 6:1-6

SERMON: Weak, We Are Strong; Powerless, We Are Given Power
 Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Voice of a Prophet 158

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs 1 only) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: For Those Tears I Died 160

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, make us alive Christians; stand us on holy ground, keep us in faith. When we try to hide, remind us that we cannot hide from you. Lift our eyes on high. Send us forth in love where people cry out and hearts are broken, and souls demand such mercy as only you can give. We thank you for the times and places where people have set compassion before hate and have accepted, for the sake of us all, more than their share of wounds and sorrow. We glorify you and are aware that undergirding all of life, both chaos and calm, all clamor and silence, is You and your peace -- awesome, amazing and eternal. Keep us in that peace, in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Our God Is Like An Eagle 43

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

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We welcome our new officers, following our congregational meeting, and challenge them to be for this congregation the kinds of leaders we all would like to have: Treasurer: John Little (serving until November), Clerk: Lee Harris, Building Manager and Chair of Search Committee: Charlie P., Outreach: Chip McNeill, Pastor: Rev. Marge Ragona. The Board will be meeting once a month on a regular basis.

Please remember your search team and if you see something that might serve us as sanctuary or office space, please contact the pastor or Charlie to follow up on it. LOOK!!! (and pray!)

MONDAY: Buddy Program--Care for the Caregivers. 7:30 at the pastor's.

WEDNESDAY: RAP - Liberation.

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH: Cookout at the pastor and Shirley's with District Coordinator Ms. Mary Moore visiting. Please bring potato salad, green salad, beans, etc. plus some kind of meat to cook (hamburger, hot dogs, chicken, sausage, etc.) Cold drinks, chips, condiments, etc. will be provided, also dessert.

SUNDAY: Ms Moore will be the speaker at our worship service that evening. If you have any questions for Ms. Moore, question and answer time will be provided Saturday night for you to ask them.

NEW MEMBERS' class Sunday at 5:00 p.m. at the U.U.'s.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

July 3, 1988

7th Sunday in Pentecost

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: God's is the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.

P: God founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

L: Who can ascend the mount of God or who may stand in God's holy place?

P: The one with sinless hands and a clean heart; the one who does not desire what is vain and who does not swear deceitfully to a neighbor.

L: You shall receive a blessing from God, a reward from your savior.

P: Such are the people that seek for God; that seek the face of our God forever.

OPENING HYMN: Our God Has Made This World 159

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:22-33
II Corinthians 8:8-15
Mark 6:25-34

SERMON: What Does God Want FOR Us? Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness 174

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - We Give Thee But Thine Own, Vs.1 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Burdens Are Lifted At Calvary 164

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, you see us for who we really are: We are both for and against you. We care and are indifferent. We try to help and yet are responsible for the world's rage. We mean well but take part in a thousand unnecessary cruelties, large and small. We know that we cannot love others until we love ourselves. Teach us to risk being in your presence and to measure our love by your love. Teach us our own divine dimensions, then teach us our neighbor's. Forgive us for our malice and turn us into a people who can love others as you love us and want for others what you want for us. By your love set us free to love; in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven: Holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day ur daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For

yours is the power the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy: God of power and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FIATH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: My Country 'Tis of Thee 247

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
TUESDAY: Board Meeting, Tuesday, 7:45 p.m. (???) Board members please see Lee to confirm.

WEDNESDAY: Rap -- "Survival Skills for Gay People."

SATURDAY: Ms. Mary Moore, District Coordinator will be here for her annual visit and appraisal. You are all invited to a cookout at the pastor's (potluck type). Please bring a salad, leafy, potato, congealed or other, and some kind of meat to cook out. Drinks and breads will be provided.

SUNDAY: Mary Moore will be our speaker at the Sunday service. Please call friends and invite them to hear this message from our District Coordinator.

TROY PERRY'S MOTHER IS VERY ILL: Your prayers are sought for the founder's mother, Mrs. Edith Perry, who is in intensive care in a Los Angeles Hospital. She has been suffering from cancer for over five years and is on life support systems. Please pray for her and for Troy as he helps her meet this crisis in her life.

Your prayers are also sought for the various grants which are being applied for. We have heard favorable comments about our March on Washington grant which is primarily to help with women with AIDS.

This is the birthday of our nation. Your prayers are always solicited for our country to be a nation founded in justice for all people.

Drive safely and enjoy a safe Fourth!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
P.O. BOX 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
July 10, 1988 8th Sunday After Pentecost

SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: God, you have probed me and you know me; you know when I sit and when I stand;
P: You understand my thoughts from afar; my journeys and my rest you scrutinize. With all my ways you are familiar.
L: Even before I say a word, behold O God, you know the whole of it.
P: Behind me and before me, you encompass me and rest your hand upon me.
L: Where can I go from your spirit or flee from your presence?
P: If I take the wings of dawn or settle at the farthest limit of the seas, even there your hand shall guide me.
L: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall hide me and night shall be my light" -- For you dark and light are the same.
P: I give you thanks that I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are your works.
L: My soul you know full well and my frame is not unknown to you.
P: How marvelous are your designs and how vast the sum of them; should I count all of them and reach an end, I should still be with you.

OPENING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 153

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: I Kings 19:9b-18
Matthew 24:32

SERMON: Ms. Mary Moore

HYMN: Dear God, The Source of Humankind 152

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
DOXOLOGY 132
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Breathe On Me, Breath of God 33A

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we come to you contrite, a little sad and most eager to mend our ways. Forgive us for the times we have bullied others and for the places we have tried to be first in line; for the times of our anger and the places of our stupidity; for the times of our cowardice and the places of our hesitation; for every time and place we did not love the good in others nor praise the glory of God. Be strength beside us and shape our lives for healing. Abide in us and make your word come true in our flesh. In the name of Jesus, who taught us

to pray saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil." For yours is the power, the reign and the glory forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy; God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: God Will Take Care of You 162

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you/
And also with you.

+ + + + +
We welcome Ms. Mary Moore, the District Coordinator of the Gulf-Lower Atlantic District as our speaker tonight. Mary's role is that of Administrator and Representative for this area of the country within the Fellowship. Be sure to introduce yourself to her if you have not had the opportunity to do so.

We thank everyone for their help with the potluck cookout last night. All the food was delicious, and if you want your leftovers, they are at the Pastor's!! (If you don't, thanks for the goodies!) Special thanks to Tony and John L for the extra mile.

WEDNESDAY: Rap: Transsexualism/Gender. 7:30 at the Pastor's.

SATURDAY: Movie Night - "Parting Glances" and a red beans and rice /salad/french bread supper. Cost \$3.00. Profits to the church. (Cokes will be for sale.)

MONDAY, 7/18: Buddy Training, Rhonda Brownstein, Trainer.

SATURDAY: 7/23 and 7/30. Quilting for the Names Project. at the Pastor's, starting at 2:00 p.m.

A Trivial Pursuit/Games night is planned for next month. What do you play? (Well we knew that, but what else???)

*Joy comes
with
the morning.*
Psalm 30:5

How are our teams coming? Has anyone found the location for our new church?

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL. 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142

SINGSPARATION WELCOME July 31, 1988 ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will bless God at all times; God's praise shall be ever in my mouth.

P: Let my soul glory in God; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

E: Glorify God with me; Let us together extol God's name.

P: Look to God that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame.

L: Taste and see how good God is; happy the person who takes refuge in God.

P: The great grow poor and hungry; but those who seek God want for no good thing.

OPENING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful , We Adore Thee 153

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 16:16-25, 32-35
Ephesians 1:1-6
John 6:25-37

SERMON: Reject the Rejection Rev.Ragona

HYMN: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Doxology 132

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together 148

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, who shall save us except yourself? All of our other gods have failed us: the image in the mirror, the possessions we have, the drugs by which we escape, the signs of our own good fortune, none of these suffice. We are hungry for bread we cannot earn. Feed us with mercy and toughen our souls with love. Break our idols and hear our fears, turn us back to you that we may be sifted and sorted, comforted and gathered, opened and persuaded that you are God. Give us a new day, enormous in light, new in hope and brimming in compassion that we may be fed and renewed through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil; for your is the power and the reign and the glory, now and forever.Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We left them up to you.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Since Jesus Came Into My Heart 74

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And als with you.

+ + + + +

MONDAY: Care for the Caregivers. All people who are actively buddying are asked to attend.

WEDNESDAY: Board Meeting, at the Pastor's.

SATURDAY: Movie Night and Potluck. Movie is "Victor-Victoria" if people have not seen it.

NEWSLETTER: John P. is putting together another newsletter. Chip needs people to sell ads. If you have cntributions, let us know.

RAP: There will be no rap until the first Wednesday in September, to give us a chance to get a new rap list together and take a break. In the fall we will have a rap series centering on "Embodiment" for Advent, and some special raps in September. Watch this space for announcement.

Please remember the search for a building. We need your help and input. If you see something promising, please tell Charlie or John.

Your prayers are needed for Neil who is in the hospital, for Richard and Tom Harcey's mother, for Linda, Bob, Tom, Tony, all who are ill. Please pray daily for our buddies.

In the past week, two of our members have moved to other areas. Ron H. moved to Albany, Ga. and Vickie moved to Pennsylvania.

OUTREACH: Movie night is a kind of outreach. If you know someone who needs the church but won't come alone, invite him/her to the movie to get to know people, so they won't feel so strange coming to church. It's a great way to get to know our gang.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 12th Sunday After Pentecost August 7, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Sing unto God a new song; for God has done wondrous deeds.

P: God has made salvation known and revealed justice in the sight of the nations.

L: God's kindness and faithfulness are remembered in Israel and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Sing joyfully all you lands; break into song, sing praise.

OPENING HYMN: O Worship Our God 40

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Job 29:12-20
 I John 5:1-6
 John 15:9-17

SERMON: The Last Temptation of Christ Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Wonderful Grace of Jesus 115

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Kumbaya 116

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, how do we present ourselves to you? We are so often adamant, hard, stiff-necked and contrary. We value things more than persons. We take and find it difficult to give; or worse, we are able to give but do not allow ourselves to be given unto. We become angry quickly, but are slow to forgive. We are in love with our fears, and in fear of our loves. We are busy telling falsehood, but slow to hear the truth. Help us. Fulfill us. Awaken us. Calm us. Love us. Deep within us, we know that our lives come alive only in you and only then do our days and night make sense and shout joy. By your imponderable mercy erase our surfaces and deepen us down to the places of your glory. Through Jesus, the Christ, in whom we live and move and have our being, we pray: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Standing on the Promises 98

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

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MONDAY: The pastor and Rick Meriwether of the Health Dept. will be speaking at Heritage Hospice about the needs of people with AIDS.

TUESDAY: The Mobile AIDS Coalition will meet at the Red Cross. (This is just so you don't think we're sitting around doing nothing!)

WEDNESDAY: No rap for the month of August. New raps begin in September.

SATURDAY: People are needed to help consolidate the materials from the building into one locker, and make the Buddy Program materials available. Please help; let's not leave it to the same people time after time.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT: There will be a Trivial Pursuit-Game night on Saturday, August 20th. Bring a game, bring a friend who does not come to church for an evening of simple pleasures.

We have sought the Board members of the Church of Religious Science to provide us meeting space at their church. Their Board is considering this. Please keep this matter in your prayers. It would bring us back downtown.

RAFFLE: A 50/50 Raffle is being planned to help bring money in for the building fund. Be prepared! You will be asked to sell and buy tickets. Prize: Half the money, divided 25%, 15% and 10% among the winners. Prize could be as much as \$250 to the first prize winner, along with \$500 to the church. Painless way to kick off our Building Fund. Prize will be awarded at Fall Kickoff.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL. 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205)476- 9142

14th Sunday After Pentecost

August 21, 1988

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills
from when help comes to me.

P: My help is from God who made heaven and earth.

L: God will not suffer your foot to slip; God shall not
slumber who guides you.

P: Indeed, God neither slumbers nor sleeps; but is the
guardian of all.

L: God is your guardian; God is your shade at your right hand.

P: The sun shall not harm you by day nor the moon at night.

L: God will guard you from all evil; God will guard your life.

P: God will guard your coming in and your going out both now
and forever.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise to God, the All-Loving 151

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Ephesians 6:10-20
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SERMON: STRENGTH ENOUGH REV. RAGONA

HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness 174

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: The Doxology 132

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Would Be True 76

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Hear, O God, the confession of our
hearts and cleanse us from our sins. We have surely fled from
your love, watered down your truth, and held many gods before
you. We despise the disciplines that would give us life, and
smirk at the holy gifts that would give us joy. We do not
know the true pity that helps to bind up the world's wounds.
We do not understand that you are the answer to our deepest
need for peace and meaning. We fear the depths and have no
height; we try to escape the places of mourning and miss the
places of hope. Our despair defeats our trust and we never
understand that to transcend disaster we must understand its
meaning. Cause us to hunger and thirst for the depths of your
forgiveness whereby we may rise to new hope and where our

brokenness may become wholeness; through Jesus the Christ, who
taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven: Holy is your
name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us

our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test but deliver us from evil. For yours
is the power and the right and the glory, now and forever.
Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Whispering Hope 21

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
MONDAY: "Care for the Caregivers." Buddies will meet at
7:30. Please be on time.

There will be no rap this week or next week. Raps begin
again in September.

The Board and Pastor met with the Church of Religious Science
this morning. Rev Jack Miller is a delight and they seemed
very welcoming. We will know their answer on Tuesday.

We thank John L and Charlie for hosting the Trivial Pursuit
party last night. It was fun and everyone seemed to have a
good time. Let's do it again some time soon.

50/50 Raffle Tickets are available. Please sell them to your
friends, acquaintances, coworkers (if you can) and help us
raise money for our own building. Remember that if we
are able to sell \$1000 worth, someone will be richer by
\$250, \$150, and \$100 and the church will have \$500 in the
building fund.

Pray for Lee Harris, please. He is in a coma at Thomas
Hospital and needs all our prayers and God's healing power.
Pray also for Linda Bolen, for Marcus, and all our buddies.

Remember to register to vote. This is a very important
election for our people, and whatever your politics, we all
need to be involved for the good of us all.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 576-9142
 Last Sunday in Pentecost August 28, 1988
 SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Wonderful are your decrees; therefore
 will I keep them.
 P: The revelation of your words sheds light, giving wisdom
 to the simple.
 L: I am open-mouthed with wonder in my yearning for your
 commandments.
 P: Turn to me in pity as you turn to those who love your name.
 L: Steady my footsteps according to your promise, and let no
 iniquity rule over me.
 P: Redeem me from the oppression of the wicked that I may
 keep your precepts.
 L: Let your countenance shine upon me and teach me your
 statutes.
 P: My eyes shed streams of tears because your law has not been
 kept. (Ps 119:129-136)

OPENING MYMN: Hail to the Lord's Anointed 39

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 35-4-7a
 James 1:17-27
 Mark 7:31-37

SERMON: What Are We Open To? Rev.Ragona

HYMN: Open My Eyes 224

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: He Touched Me 61

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we confess that we have been un-
 profitable servants many, many times; even though you have
 called us to be a servant church. Called to practices of love,
 we have been neither hot nor cold; called to celebrations of
 mercy we have neither sacrificed nor suffered. We would like
 to follow the safe path, the respectable street, the approved
 highway -- lest we encounter your mystery, your danger or your
 cross. O God, save us from the misery of the neutral way and
 strengthen us to be prophets in the wilderness of the world's
 anguish. Help us to go without fear and make us a true church
 of redemption, redeemed ourselves and redemptive of others.
 Give us truthy, wise God: love thrust against fear, forgiveness
 wedged against sin, trust shaped against death. Give us grace,

hope and truth in the blessed name of Jesus, Our Lord, who
 forgave us and taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven,
 holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done, on
 earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread
 and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against
 us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil,
 for yours is the power, the reign, and the glory, now and
 forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
 earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed
 is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
 highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: The Solid Rock 32

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +

This week we say goodbye to three members, Joe Tate, Joseph
 Smith, and Lee Harris. Joe T. is moving to Pensacola, Joseph
 to Jackson, and Lee is leaving us for a mansion built for
 him in Glory. We will miss all three. A memorial service
 is being planned for Lee and will will announce the time
 and place.

There are no planned meetings for this week. Everyone rest
 and we will begin our Fall program next week, following the
 Labor Day holiday.

HELP WANTED: We need a pianist for next Sunday's service,
 since many of our friends (including Judson) will be in N.O.
 that weekend.

RAP: New rap series begins Sept. 7th. Flyers will be avail-
 able next Sunday.

Remember the Building Fund and the 50/50 raffle. If you
 would like to remember Lee Harris, a gift to the Building Fund
 would be something he would love; he loved this church and
 all of you and would be honored to have a part of the building
 in his memory.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205)476-9142

First Sunday in Dominiontide

September 4, 1988

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: How shall I make a return to God for the good done to me?

P: I will take up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of my God.

L: I will pay my vows to God in the presence of God's people.

P: O God, I am your servant; you have loosed my bonds and to you I will offer thanksgiving.

L: I will call upon the name of God and pay my vows to God in the presence of the people.

P: I will praise God in the courts of the house of God, in your midst, O Jerusalem will I praise God.

HYMN: Praise Him

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 50:4-11

James 2:14-18, 26

Mark 8:27-36

SERMON: GRACE AND GRATITUDE

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Work for the Night is Coming

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) *Toney* 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Cleanse Me

102

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, because your mercies, tender and passionate, surround us, we are sorry for our sins: We know when we have been negligent, we know our bad beginnings and our poor endings. We know that we desire to serve you and praise you, but sometimes we have good words and lazy deeds. We turn from your magnificent love to our own foolishness and forget that all possibilities are in you. O God, take our little repentance and make it great, turn our routine work into ceremonies of joy, and wake us again to your love that we may become minstrels of joy; in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Love Lifted Me

66

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
WEDNESDAY: New Rap Series begins: Theme for the next ten raps is "Surviving as a Gay Person." 9/7 - "Surviving Coming Out."

MOVIE NIGHT: Friday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. Casserole and Salad. You bring the makings for a great salad and we'll construct it at the pastor's and Shirley's. Movie will be "Cabaret."

Fall Kickoff is October 15, not too soon to get committees together. By next Sunday we need to decide who is doing what to make this our usual success. Remember that this is MCC's 20th Anniversary and we need to celebrate that anniversary that week.

MCC at Baton Rouge has invited us to a Retreat the weekend of September 30-October 2. Retreat is sponsored by The South Central District and will be based on Henri Nouwen's Reaching Out: Three Movements of Spirituality (Solidude, hospitality, prayer). The retreat will be at Camp Ruth Lee, north of Baton Rouge. Cost is \$57.50 (before 9/15), \$67.50 (after), which includes all food and lodging. This would be a good opportunity to meet some of the people from our other neighboring district.

Pray traveling mercies for many of our group who are off in New Orleans for "Decadence Day," and will be traveling home tomorrow. Also for others on the highway. Remember to drive safely. This is the most dangerous weekend of the year on the road.

Happy Labor Day. Remember to rest and renew.

Call Charlie

Reader 1

2

SAG

Candle - John

Offering - Tony

Acylote - James

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

September 11, 1988

2nd Sunday in Dominiontide

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: One thing I ask of God and this will I seek: To dwell in the house of God all my days.

P: Let me there gaze upon the loveliness of God and contemplate God's temple.

L: I will be hidden in God's abode in the time of trouble, and concealed in God's tent; God will set me high upon a rock.

P: Even now my head is held high above my enemies on every side.

L: I will offer sacrifices in the tabernacle of God; I will sing and chant praise to God.

P: I believe that I shall see the bounty of God in the land of the living.

Tog: Wait for God with courage; be stouthearted and wait for God.

OPENING HYMN: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Job 28:20-28

James 3: 13-18

Mark 9:30-37

SERMON: Cues to a Happier Life

Rev.Ragona

HYMN: Simple Gifts

93

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs 1)

110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Break Thou the Bread of Life (1,3,4) 70

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Gracious God, our sins are many: Some we can see, some we cannot see; some we don't want to see!

Each of us sins in our own way and we share in the world's sin. Some sins besiege us and imprison us. Some are havey and we are almost broken trying to carry them. Some cripple us until we cannot run free. Some deaden us even before death. You, O God, and we recognize those things which are sin in our lives. Keep us from all things that are shallow and unholy, keep us from things that move us away from the deep being of ourselves and you. Protect us from all times and places that destroy and deceive, and give us grace to show the justice and mercy to all people that we would ask fr ourselves. Make us whole again, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to

prayer saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Day Is Dying in the West

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY: Rap. Second in our series of "survival" raps -- "Surviving Your Family!" 7:30 p.m. at the pastor's.

FRIDAY: Do we want to move Movie Night to this Friday? If so, same thing holds. Bring the makings for a salad and we'll construct it at the house. Movie is "Cabaret."

Fall Kickoff Committees will be selected immediately after church. Think about what you would like to do. We need a food committee, location, bar, and entertainment committees.

Remember the Mid-Central District's invitation to attend their fall retreat. Camp Ruth, north of Baton Rouge, \$57.50 (before Sept. 15th) \$67.50 after. This includes all food and lodging. Henri Nouwen's book Reaching-Out: Three Movements of Spirituality is the central theme of the retreat.

Remember the 50/50 raffle. Please sell your tickets and get the money to John L. This is building fund money, and we need our own space.

20th Anniversary of MCC is coming up October 6. An offering for MCC will be taken at that time. If you have been saving your pennies, this would be an appropriate time to give them to one of MCC's four quarterly emphases -- Third World, World Church Extension, Samaritan, and Fellowship offerings.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL. 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 Third Sunday in Dominiontide September 18, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Praise the name of God; praise, you
 servants of God who stand in the
 courts of the house of your God.
 P: Priase God, for God is good; sing praise to God's name,
 which we love.
 L: For I know that God is great--greater than all gods.
 P: All that God wills is done in heaven and on earth, in
 the seas and deeps.
 L: God raises storm clouds from the ends of the earth;
 makes lightning and rain, brings forth the storm from
 its warehouse.
 P: Your name, O God, endures forever. LORD is your title
 through all generations.
 Tog: For God defends God's people and is merciful to God's
 servants.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise to God Who Gives Us Life 150

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Job 42: 1-6
 James 4: James 4:13 - 5:9
 Mark 9: 38-50

SERMON: "The Eternal Tension - Has Come /Will Come" Rev. Ragona

HYMN: God Will Take Care of You 162

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - The Doxology 132
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: An Evening Prayer 165

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, hear our confession: Sometimes
 our sin spins a dark web, tightening our fears, binding our
 hope, drying out our ability to love. Sometimes the sin in us
 is venomous and strikes others as a death; it stuns, stupifies
 and cripples. Sometimes the sin in us is sleek and sanitary,
 and we cry "Lord, Lord" who never knew you. Make us weary of
 the cliches we recite to one another in your name. Awaken us
 to awe and holiness that you may approach us at our very door-
 steps. Clean away or tangles, our evil, and our fear. Be
 wholeness in us for it is God's hand that heals, upholds and
 hallows us. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray,
 saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion
 come, your will be dne on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
 this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive

those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
 deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and
 the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace; heaven and
 earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ has risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Jesus Is Coming Again 172

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

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 MONDAY: Buddy Training, 7:30 p.m. New people: 7:00 p.m.
 Trainer: Russell Porter, Registered Physical Therapist. Russ
 will be teaching proper use of wheelchairs, walkers, canes and
 how to transfer a patient from bed to chair, chair to standing,
 etc. This is practical training for all of us who are working
 with people who are using these aids and need our help to get
 around. Rev. Ragona will not be present; she will be talking
 to the women of NOW on "AIDS and Women."

WEDNESDAY: Rap attendance has been phenomenal! We had 21 at
 rap last week. Topic this week, "Surviving Rejection. We all
 experience rejection, and it need not destroy us. Let's talk
 about coping skills.

Apologies to John P. for the newsletter not getting out. There
 will be a September/October newsletter within the week.

SATURDAY: Trivial Pursuit. Bring snacks and cold drinks.
 7:30 p.m. Team play -- no one need feel left out.

50/50 Raffle -- The more we take in the better it is for the
 church and the prizewinner. Prizes are 50% of what we take
 in. Please sell your tickets before October 15.

Fall Kickoff will be October 15 at Lafayette Square, thanks
 to John P. There will be a \$1.00 charge at the door to cover
 the use of the facility. Drinks will be sold (alcohol and
 otherwise) and there will be a D.J. Tell your friends and
 even your enemies -- they'll be better off for a night of
 friendship with our caring group.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 4th Sunday in Dominiontide September 25, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Of kindness and judgment I will
 sing to you, O God. I will sing
 praise.
 P: I will persevere in the way of integrity; I will walk
 with integrity within my house.
 L: I will not set my eyes on any base thing and I shall
 hate the one who does perversely.
 P: The one with a crooked heart will be far from me; and I
 will not know evil.
 L: I will destroy the one who slanders his neighbor secretly;
 I will not endure the haughty.
 P: My eyes are on the faithful of the land that they may
 dwell with me.
 L: The one who walks in the way of integrity shall serve me;
 the deceitful shall not dwell in my house.
 P: The one who speaks falsehood shall not stand before my
 eyes and each morning I will destroy the wicked of the
 land.
 Tog: But the children of your servants shall survive and
 shall continue in your presence forever.

OPENING HYMN: Who Is On the Lord's Side? (Vss.1-3) 7

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:18-24
 Hebrews 1
 John 16:25-33

SERMON: It is not right for us to dwell alone... Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Family of God 73

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
 OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together 67

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, give us patience to await your
 timelessness. We are purposeless and troubled, seeking some
 magic easy and quick answer to make everything difficult easy
 and all wrong right again. We have few silences to hear your
 voice, small place for your presence, and little time for your
 truths. We do not know the closeness of love because we have
 not loved. We deny that our disturbance can have a meaning,
 and do not understand that our discomfort can be an entrance
 to life. Teach us to share with others and with you. Teach

us that by our participation in the anguish of the work we
 learn that we belong to the human race and to you. Teach us
 that in pain we find the roots of laughter, that though peril
 surround us the victory will go to love, that we can rejoice
 now and forever and even on the brink of eternity because you
 gather and hold us now and forever in the name of Jesus, who
 taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your
 name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is
 in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our
 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us
 to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power,
 the reign, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

sanctus: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace; heaven and
 earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed
 is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
 highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: They'll Know We Are Christians 213

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +
 MONDAY: Buddy Program - Care for the Caregivers. 7:30 p.m.
 at the pastor and Shirley's. All buddies are asked to attend.

WEDNESDAY: Rap: "Surviving Self-Hatred." As young gays, we
 are taught to hate ourselves by society. How do we overcome
 this? Let's share our survival and coping mechanisms.

FRI, SAT, SUN: South Central District Retreat at Baton Rouge.
 There is still time to say you are going. If you want to
 attend, see the pastor immediately after service.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS. Begins October 9. Members received Novem-
 ber 13th. Anyone interested, please see the pastor.

GREATER GULF STATE FAIR begins Friday. Anyone interested in
 helping staff the Buddy Program booth, please see Chip.

FALL KICKOFF - October 15th. Remember to see your raffle
 tickets, drawing will be that night. Prepare an interesting
 snack. Drinks will be for sale. Entertainment by Judson et
 al. \$2.00 at the door. At Lafayette Square.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. BOX 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

5th Sunday in Dominiontide

October 2, 1988

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God, teach us to number our days aright
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

P: Return to us, O God! How long shall you be absent? Have
compassion on your servants.

L: Fill us at daybreak with your kindness that we may shout
for joy and gladness all our days.

P: Make us glad for the days when you afflicted us, for the
years when we saw evil.

L: Let your work be seen by your servants, and your glory by
their children.

P: May the gracious care of our God be ours; prosper the
work of our hands for us.

127

OPENING HYMN: Love Divine

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 3:13-20

Hebrews 3:1-6

Mark 10:17-30

SERMON:

Mr. Mike Brunson

75

HYMN: Living for Jesus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Pass Me Not

131

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we confess that we have sinned
and it is difficult to free ourselves. We have sinned against
you in thought, word and deed and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved
our neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus, the Christ,
have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that
we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory
of your holy name, and to the name of Jesus, who taught us to
pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your
dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as
we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the
test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the
reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Take the Name of Jesus With You

140

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
Every night this week, Buddies will be staffing a booth at
the Fair. If you would like to help, and are a Buddy, please
see Chip. (hours 6-9 p.m.)

RAP: Surviving Homophobia. How do we deal with the homo-
phobia we encounter from the world around us. Let's talk
about what we have learned from our own experiences.

Movie Night will be closer to Halloween, when we show the
"Rocky Horror Show." You are invited to bring props (toast,
water pistols, newspaper, lighters, puffed rice!) This could
be a fun and funny evening. Supper will be simple and good.
\$3.00 at the door. Proceeds to the church. (Probably Oct.28)

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Knoxville, Tn. Weekend of Oct. 28, 29,30.
Everyone is invited, you do not have to hold an office.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Sunday, Oct. 23. Election of officers,
passage of our goals for the year, etc. See Rev. Marge if you
have agenda items.

BOARD MEETING: Oct. 11th. Very important that everyone be
there. Need to work on goals, in order to retain our Commis-
sioned Church status.

Your prayers are needed for Danny who is in the hospital and
for Chuck who is caring for him. Please remember our brothers
in your prayers.

NEW MEMBERS'S CLASS begins next Sunday, 5:00 p.m., here at
the UU's.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 7th Sunday in Dominiontide October 9, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will give you praise in the vast assembly; in the mighty throng will I praise you.

P: Awake and be vigilant in my defense, O God. Do me justice because you are just.

L: Let all be put to shame and confounded who are glad at my misfortune.

P: Let them be clothed with shame and disgrace who glory over me, but let those be glad who favor my just cause.

L: May they ever say, "God be glorified; God wills the prosperity of God's servants."

P: Then shall my tongue recount your justice, your praise all the day, O my God.

HYMN: Sing Praise to God Who Gives Us Life 150

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 53: 7-12
 Hebrews 4:14-16
 Mark 10:35-45

SERMON: Great, Greater, Greatest! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Christ is the Truth, the Way 243

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone 163

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, before your awesome righteousness who are we? You are holy, we are too often wrong. You are wholeness, we are broken. You are free, we are captive. We do and have done evil; but worse, we have stood by and let evil be done. We permit innocence to be attacked; we feed the dogs of hate. We watch the world fall and claim our powerlessness. O vast and merciful God, hear our sorrow for who we are when we forget you in your majesty and ourselves in our dignity. Forgive us our sins and restore to us the joy of our salvation. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed in the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Higher Ground

52

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: L: The peace of God go with you.

+ + + P: And also with you. +

TUESDAY: Board Meeting. Goals for the next year. This meeting is not closed. If you think you can help us, please attend.

WEDNESDAY: RaP: Surviving the Closet. Let's look at what being closeted does to us, what we can learn from it, and what we can do to survive it.

THURSDAY: Last minute planning meeting before Fall Kick Off. Board, committees, etc. are invited.

SATURDAY: Fall kick off. Party, fund raiser, chance to welcome new people to our little social whirl, etc. Everyone invite, and bring at least one other person.

SUNDAY: Special Kick Off service. We have invited Rev. Lee Carlton, our pastor at Pensacola, to be our guest for that service. Please come and enjoy the worship, and bring a friend.

MONDAY: 10/17 is Buddy Training night. All buddies are asked to attend. Trainer will be announced next week.

SATURDAY: 10/29 Movie Night. The Rocky Horror Show, with props. Come and have fun. A pertinent supper will be served (and it won't be "Rocky.")

November 4,5,6. District Conference at Knoxville. Registration forms are available. Please let us know how many are going, and make your reservations now. Rev. Sherre Boothman, Dean of Samaritan College, our ministerial training school, will be there and will preach.

The parsonage is in the process of moving. We have made an offer on a house on Church Street. Please pray with us that God will lead us to a permanent home.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Lyons Park

Sunday, October 16, 1988

CALL TO WORSHIP: Let the heavens and the earth praise God, the glorious, and every creature which is in heaven and on earth and under the earth, in the seas and all that are in them. Let us praise and exalt God above all forever.

Reading from the Scripture: (Genesis 2:20-25)
Then God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky." And so it happened. God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teams, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas and let the birds multiply on the earth." Evening came and morning followed - the 5th day.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was... God looked at every thing that had been made and found it very good.

MEDITATION: The Story of St. Francis and the Wolf

READING: There is a time when faith wavers, when it stumbles, when it falls. The goodwill of love dries up, and we become angered by the cliches of goodness itself. Or we look on the world and with envy in our hearts seem to see the shining prizes given to the incompetent and the triumphs fall to the hosts of wickedness. Days come when bitterness eats away in us over the pain we cannot cure and the chaos we cannot set right again.

It is here in the dry and empty places of the soul's defeat that we are to learn the deeps and the joys, the mysteries and the glories of life. It is here, when we are lonely, cold, silent, discouraged and forlorn that a dog meets us at the door wagging his tail, a cat purrs climbing into our laps, a caged bird sings and life is suddenly made more humane by the touch of one of God's animal creations.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

RESPONSIVE READING

O Most High, Almighty, good Lord God,
To Thee belong praise, glory, honor and all blessing!

PRAISED BE MY LORD GOD WITH ALL GOD'S CREATURES, AND ESPECIALLY OUR BROTHER THE SUN, WHO BRINGS US THE DAY AND WHO BRINGS US THE LIGHT.

Fair is he and shining with a very great splendor; O God, to us the sun signifies thee.

PRAISED BY OUR GOD FOR OUR SISTER THE MOON, AND FOR THE STARS WHICH GOD HAS SET CLEAR AND LOVELY IN HEAVEN.

Praised by our God for our brother the wind, for the air and cloud, calms and all weather, By which thou upholdest in life all creatures

PRAISED BY OUR GOD FOR OUR SISTER WATER, WHO IS VERY SERVICE-ABLE TO US, AND HUMBLE AND PRECIOUS AND CLEAN.

Praised be our God for our brother fire, through whom thou givest us light in the darkness; and he is bright and pleasant, and very mighty and strong.

PRAISED BE OUR GOD FOR OUR MOTHER THE EARTH, WHICH DOES SUSTAIN AND KEEP US, AND BRINGETH FORTH DIVERS FRUITS, AND FLOWERS OF MANY COLORS, AND GRASS.

Praised be our God for all those who pardon one another for your love's sake, and who endure weakness and tribulation.

BLESSED BE THOSE WHO PEACEABLY SHALL ENDURE, FOR THOU, O MOST HIGHEST, SHALL GIVE THEM A CROWN!

Praised be our God for our sister the death of the body, from whom no one escapeth.

PRAISE YE AND BLESS OUR GOD, AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD, AND SERVE GOD WITH GREAT HUMILITY.

(St.Francis of Assisi)

BENEDICTION: Love God...Remember that Jesus redeemed you... Revere his altars where he give you himself...Learn his peace and let it possess your heart...Never covet...Love God's creatures...Forgive those who hurt you and win your enemies friendship...Turn away from sin...Praise God fr the world God has made.

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You are invited to join us for our regular worship service which takes place at 7:00 p.m. every Sunday at 6345 Old Shell Road (across from Stankey Field).

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL. 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragana, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 7th Sunday in Dominiontide October 16, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: When God brought back the captives of Zion, we were like those dreaming.

P: Then we were filled with laughter and our tongues with rejoicing.

L: They said among the nations, "God has done great things for them."

P: God has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

L: Restore our fortunes, O God, like the torrents in the southern desert.

P: Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing; although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown,

Tog: They shall come back rejoicing carrying their sheaves.

HYMN: O How Glorious, Full of Wonder 103

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31:7-9
 Hebrews 5:1-10
 Mark 10: 46-52

SERMON: What do you want from Jesus? Rev. Ragana

HYMN: Open My Eyes That I May See 224

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs. 1) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Come, Holy Spirit 45

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, what can we say to you. We are as we are: sometimes overfed and self-satisfied, having no need of you; sometimes crippled and torn, having no love for you; sometimes empty and afraid, having no trust in you. We are as we are: seldom having sought you seriously, seldom having listened to you earnestly, seldom having followed you faithfully. We are as we are. Come to us, O God. Be in us, O God. Astonish us, O God. Be heaven in us this day and even forevermore. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray: Our God in heaven, Holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your heart. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Heavenly Sunlight 105

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
 Thanks to everyone who helped with the "Kickoff" last night; special thanks to the Board who took almost total responsibility for bringing it all together. Also thanks to John Pettibone for providing the space. All who brought food, helped bartend, clean up, etc. helped to make it a wonderful evening. Also thanks to those who bought and sold the raffle tickets -- We made \$200.00 for the building fund. We appreciate Dick Clark for his lovely fruit and cheese door prize. We also thank the "Sisters of Sleaze" for the entertainment. They contributed \$41.00 to the Buddy Fund, the bartenders contributed \$39.00 to the Buddy Fund. Thanks, too, to Rick Walter for the music. Everyone helped to make this one of our best 'Kickoff' parties ever.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: OCTOBER 30, immediately following the service. We must pass our goals for the next two years, elect officers, and set our budget priorities. We need every member there.

MOVIE NIGHT: Rocky Horror Show, Oct 29, 7:00 p.m. Supper and movie, \$3.00, proceeds to the church. Bring props!

RAP: Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Topic: Surviving the Gay Community!

There will be no new members class next Sunday. Rev. Marge and Shirley have been given scholarships to the National Aids Network AIDS Management Conference in New Orleans and will be returning in time for the evening service, but not in time for the class.

BUDDY TRAINING tomorrow night. Administrative meeting. Teach-in how to follow up on your buddy, fill out reporting forms, etc. Very necessary meeting.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068
 Rev. Marge Ragana, Pastor
 8th Sunday in Dominiontide
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mobile, AL 36660
 (205) 476-9142
 October 23, 1988

CALL TO WORSHIP: Instruct me, O God, in the way of your statutes, that I may observe them.

P: Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart.

L: Lead me in the path of your commandment, for in it I delight.

P: Incline my heart to your decrees and not to gain.

L: Turn away my eyes from seeing what is vain; by your way give me life.

P: Fulfill for me your promise to those who revere you.

L: Turn away from me the reproach which I dread, for your ordinances are good.

P: Behold, I long for your precepts; in your justice give me life.

OPENING HYMN: Love Divine 127

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:1-9
 Hebrews 7:23-28
 Mark 12: 28-34

SERMON: Living in the Dominion Rev. Ragana

HYMN: Living for Jesus 79

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - The Doxology 132
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Would be True 76

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we confess that we have treated the life you gave us shabbily; we have used people as things, we have been afraid to love, we have closed our eyes to injustice and our hearts to mercy. We have hugged our own piety and kept ourselves from the suffering of the world. Let fall upon us such forgiveness as shames us from our sin. Shape us in the very form of faith. Brim our hearts to the wild reaches of love and joy. Give us courage to renounce the comfortable lie and strengthen us to bear -- in our time -- the weight of the world's anguish, for often it is ours. Be close and gather us in love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us

to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Higher Ground 52

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
 Thanks to everyone for "minding the store" while Shirley and the Pastor were in New Orleans for the NAN Leadership Conference. Thanks, too, to NAN for four days in New Orleans at their expense.

MONDAY: Buddy Program - Care for the Caregivers. All people who are actively buddying are asked to attend.

WEDNESDAY: Rap. Topic: "Surviving the Loss of a Relationship." We all go through these times at some point in our lives. How do we react. What have we learned about our own ability to survive. Come and share.

SATURDAY: Rocky Horror Show -- Movie Night. Simple supper, bring props and snacks.

Your prayers are needed for the pastor and Shirley as we move toward the closing on our home and our move in November. Pray with us that all will go well.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The congregational meeting is next Sunday, Oct. 30th, immediately following worship. Please plan to attend. Goals for the coming year are to set. This is everyone's church. Let your voice and your feelings be known. That's what MCC is all about. The Freedom to Be.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 10th Sunday in Dominiontide November 6, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP - L: Praise God, O my soul; praise God all my life.

P: I will sing praise to God while I live.

L: Happy is the one whose help is God, whose hope is in the God of old.

P: God who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them.

L: God who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives good to the hungry, sets the captive free and gives sight to the blind.

P: God raises those that were bowed down and loves the just. God protects strangers; the fatherless and the widowed are maintained.

L: God thwarts the way of the wicked.

P: God shall reign forever; God shall reign through all generations.

HYMN: Great is Thy Faithfulness 174

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: I Kings 17:8-16
 Hebrews 9:24-28
 Mark 12:41-44

SERMON: Proportional Giving! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: God Will Take Care of You 162

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own 110
 Offertory Prayer

HYMN: Beneath the Cross of Jesus 113

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we confess that we have treated life shabbily; we have used people as things, we have been afraid to love, we have closed our eyes to injustice and our hearts to mercy. Let fall upon us such forgiveness as shames us from our sin. Create in our hearts the very ache of faith. Brim our hearts to the wild reaches of joy, and give us courage to renounce the comfortable lies by which we live. Strengthen us to bear in our time the weight of the world's anguish, as Jesus in his time bore ours. In his name, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it

is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: He Lives 216

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
 Thanks to everyone who helped with the first part of "the move!" We have put things in place and are looking forward now to the second phase. You are all wonderful and everything was done so quickly!!!

RAP: Wednesday. This week's rap will be the first at the new location, 1410 Church Street. Please come and enjoy our new home. Topic: "Surviving the AIDS Crisis." Let's share our strategies for living through AIDS.

Next move is scheduled for 11/19. At that time we will be moving all the rest of our belongings, including beds, etc. We can do it very quickly with your help. For the next two weeks we will be painting and fixing up the rest of the house.

At our congregational meeting, we retired John Little as treasurer and elected Pat Brown. Our thanks to John for his years of hard work on our behalf. Welcome aboard Pat! We also elected Charlie P. as our delegate and Larry Hutson as alternate delegate. John Henderson's term as clerk was ratified by the congregation, and our goals for the next two years were passed. Bless you all for your willingness to work and make this church a success.

Under 25? Watch for a new rap for young gays!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL. 36604

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 1988

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: To you I lift up my soul, O thou My God.

P: In you I trust, let me not be put to shame; let my enemies not exult over me.

L: The one who waits for you shall not be put to shame; those shall be put to shame who heedlessly break faith.

P: Make known your ways to me, O God; teach me your paths.

L: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God, my savior, and for you I wait all the day.

P: Remember that your compassion and kindness are from old, O God.

L: The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not; in your kindness, remember me because of your goodness, O God.

OPENING HYMN: From All that Dwell Below the Skies 85

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:14-16
I Thessalonians 3:0-4:3
Luke 21:25-36

SERMON: Jesus Is Coming Again!! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Jesus Is Coming Again 172

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Just A Closer Walk With Thee 233

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, protect us, lest we go from thee, hurrying down the easy ways of our prosperity, buying love with our Christmas shopping, hurrying after shadows, hiding in the lonely crowd. We have prayed to you -- not to disturb us; we would like to meet you -- but not today; we hope we may see you -- but at a respectable distance. We would like to take you seriously, but at some other time. This is our sin, our brokenness, our lostness. O thou who did come to forgive sinners, heal the broken, and find the lost; forgive, heal and find us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name, Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: It Is Well With My Soul 53

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

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We mourn the passing of Danny Hutto on Thursday, and of our beloved Papa John Hose, who died Friday. Danny's funeral has been held, and a memorial service for John Hose will be held December 11th, place to be announced (presumably in Atlanta). John Hose was the second minister ordained by MCC, its first elder, and the original writer of our By-Laws. He was an old and very dear friend of the pastor, and of this congregation. We will miss him.

NEW RAP SERIES: Based on James Nelson's book, Embodiment will be held on the Wednesdays prior to Christmas. This is our annual Advent rap, which like our Lenten rap, has a spiritual theme. The theme is that of sexuality and spirituality -- are they both part of our lives as Gay Christians.

There will be no Buddy Care for the Caretaker meeting this month. Buddy Training will resume in December.

YACHTS meeting (for gays under 25) will be held on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. at the pastor's home, Ron Hunt leading the group. If you are 25 or under, please attend. If you are older, come to the regular rap.

The Advent Season starts today, with this worship service opening the pre-Christmas time of introspection and prayer leading to the Christmas holiday. Let's keep the Christ in our Christmas, and let other know that your home keeps Advent by the lighting of an advent wreath such as ours at church.

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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 December 11, 1988 3rd Sunday of Advent
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I give you thanks, O God; for though you have been angry with me, your anger has abated and you have consoled me.

P: God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid.

L: My strength and my courage is in God who has been my savior.

P: With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation and say on that day: Give thanks to God and acclaim God's name.

L: Among the nations make known God's deeds, proclaim how exalted the name of God is.

P: Sing praise to God for God's glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth.

L: Shout with exultation, O City of Zion,

P: For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

OPENING HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem 182

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
 Phillipians 4:4-9
 Luke 3:7-14

SPECIAL MUSIC: Angels We Have Heard on High Choir

Sermon: God is a Fruit Inspector! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: We've A Story to Tell to the Nations 142

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - The Doxology 132

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Spirit of the Living God 116A

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we are strangers and sojourners, except when thou are with us. We are no people, except we are your people. Our days are lost until we find them in you. We are strangers to mercy, except we receive your mercy. Come to us. Sing in us a new song. Teach our prayers our needs. Give us yourself. Be our defender against the evil day and the false prosperity. Set our feet on the paths that run toward Bethlehem. Unto thee be glory, O Word made flesh, in whose peace we are secure, in whose mercy we are forgiven, and in whose love we are redeemed, forever and ever; through Jesus, the Christ, who taught us to pray, saving:

Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Joy To The World 179

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

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WEDNESDAY: Rap: The third rap in the series based on Embodiment by James Nelson. This week's topic, "Sexual Salvation." Please pick up your material at the back of the church.

Your prayers are sought for Ron Ford is who is ill in the hospital. Please also pray for Monty, his lover.

TREE TRIMMING PARTY - This Saturday, 7:30 at the Pastor's. Please come and bring an ornament. If you would like to give a present, let it be one for our buddies, Shirley and I have more than we need, and still can't find places to put it all. Our buddies' stockings are being made up with toiletries and kitchen needs -- give to them instead of us. Shirley & Marge.

Do you want to carol downtown -- if so, when. This is a church tradition and we usually do it the Sunday before Christmas. However, this year Christmas is on Sunday. Would you like to sing carols in our favorite recreational spots on Christmas night or on the Sunday prior? It's up to you!

Please also sign up for the 12 Nights of Christmas. It can be something very simple, like wine and cheese, or cokes and cookies, or even a good movie and popcorn. You are free to choose the entertainment and the goodies. Let's make everyone feel the Christmas spirit through to 12th Night!!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 1988

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Rouse your power and come and save us;
if your face shine upon us, O God, we
shall be safe.

P: O God, how long will you be angry while your people pray?

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them
tears to drink in ample measure.

P: You have left us to be fought over by our neighbors and
our enemies mock us.

L: May your help be with the One on your right hand, the
Human One whom you yourself made strong.

P: Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life
and we will call upon your name.

L: O God of hosts restore us;

P: If your face shine upon us, then we shall be safe.

OPENING HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Micah 5:1-4

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

SERMON: Mary, the Radical!

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Good King Wenceslas

197

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Doxology

132

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Heard the Bells

198

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, for whatever in us reaches for
your coming, we rejoice in your name. We thank and praise
you, O God, for the hiddenness, and hope and surprise of
this season. We thank you for the Brightness beyond us come
down to us, surrounding, invading and capturing our imagina-
tions. We adore you, O Word shaped in love, spoken in fire,
captured in flesh, and given for our sins. We know the One
who comes and abides -- a bearer of light that banishes our
darkness, a healer of sickness, a reconciler of warfare,
a giver of forgiveness. Your name is called "Emmanuel" --
and you are "God with us." It is in your name we pray: Our
God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your
will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those

who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver
us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the
glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: God Rest You Merry

204

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
Wednesday, Rap: TOPIC: Sexual Ethics. This is the fourth
of a series of raps based on James Nelson's book, Embodiment.
This week he deals with using our sexuality in a healthy
fashion. Please pick up the chapter at the back table, and
come enjoy this Advent rap with us.

SATURDAY: Christmas Eve service at the UU's, 11:00 p.m.
The Lessons and Carols of Christmas is the theme. Bring a
friend, your lover, your family and let us welcome the Christ-
child together.

SUNDAY: Worship Service as usual at 7:00 p.m. If you have
no family or friends with whom to share Christmas dinner,
please share with us. Bring a dish and come enjoy, and then
we will go to service together.

MONDAY: Buddies will meet as usual, but will be playing
Santa Claus. We will be filling stockings for our buddies.
Please come and help us prepare, and then take your stocking
to your buddy. Let us share Christmas with love.

Remember to buy a ticket for the Mobile AIDS Fund raffle.
All money raised goes to help PWA's pay rent, buy food and
medications. Help them help our buddies.

GOOD NEWS: We received a check for \$750 from Broadway Cares
to help buy Pentamidine Mist for PWAs at South Alabama
Medical Center. Thank you Broadway!!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 Last Sunday in Dominiontide November 20, 1988
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP - L: Our God rules in splendor robed; robed
 and girt about with strength;

P: God has made the world firm, not to be moved.

L: Your throne stands firm from of old; from everlasting you
 are God.

P: The floods lift up their voices; the floods lift up their
 tumult, O God.

L: More powerful than the roar of many waters and the breakers
 of the sea -- powerful on high is our God.

P: Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits
 your house, O God, for all our days.

OPENING HYMN: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come 170

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 23: 25-32
 Revelation 1:4b-8
 John 18:33-38

SERMON: The Dominion of God is not a Democracy! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Christ is the Truth, the Way 243

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: The Doxology 132

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Fill My Cup, Lord 167

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, by whose mystery fields bring forth,
 the earth turns around the sun, and we dare to rise to each new
 day, hear our prayers and by your grace teach us so that what
 we do and think and say praises and pleases you who are our
 ruler. Flood us with your grace. Shake our spirits awake.
 Remake us for the uses of love. At ever hour, defend us from
 the sins, great and small, that dry our minds, deaden our hearts
 and kill our souls. Keep us always close to you; through
 Jesus our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in
 heaven, Holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be
 done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
 bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
 against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from
 evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now
 and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD-THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God 166

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

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There is no planned Thanksgiving at the parsonage this year,
 and we regret that we will not have the fun and sharing that
 we traditionally have had, but the pastor's move at this time
 makes it impossible. Next year, however, we will celebrate
 together. (And there is Christmas!!!) We hope that you
 will reach out to each other, so that no one is alone and
 lonely on this holiday.

RAP: There will be no rap this week. Next week we begin the
 series of Advent raps based on Embodiment. These raps deal
 with ourselves as both sexual and spiritual beings, and what
 "embodiment" or "incarnation" means to us today.

Next Sunday Advent begins. This is the season which intro-
 duces Christmas. Let's plan to do something nice for our
 buddies, such as filling Christmas stockings with things they
 need. Your suggestions are valuable.

Thanks to Bobby White, Judson, Bobby D., Mike and Danny, Fred,
 Ron Hunt, John P., Iris, Tim and Warren for their help this
 week. Stars in your crowns!! Special thanks to Judson, Rick
 W. for hauling Buddy materials and equipment. Last but not
 least, there is no way we can really thank Bobby White, cer-
 tainly the best remodeling contractor in Mobile, for all his
 advice, skill and hard work -- and mostly for his loving
 attitude.

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING, AND GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

Christmas Eve

December 24, 1988

THE LESSONS AND CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

P: Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shined.

L: You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. As they rejoice before you at the harvest, or make merry when dividing the spoils.

P: For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed.

L: Every boot that trampled in battle and every cloak rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for flames.

P: For a child is born to us upon whose shoulder dominion rests, whose name is Wonderful, Counselor, God-Hero, The Everlasting progenitor, the Bringer of Peace.

L: Your dominion is vast and forever peaceful and over your reign, which is confirmed and sustained, both justice and judgement are now and forever.

P: The zeal of the God of hosts will do this!

OPENING HYMN: Joy to the World

179

Welcome and Greeting of Visitors

THE FIRST LESSON: Titus II:11-14

CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem

182

THE SECOND LESSON: John I: 1-14

CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful

180

THE THIRD LESSON: Luke 2: 1-20

CAROL: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

201

THE FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 2: 1-12

CAROL: Angels We Have Heard on High

203

THE FIRST MEDITATION

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs: Eternal God, as we celebrate the birth of the Holy Child, help each of us to spread the light of Christ in the darkness of our world. God, in your mercy...

P: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

L: Empower us by the gift of Jesus to share the joy of the blessed birth with those who are lonely, grieving, forgotten or abused. (You are asked to name those for whom this prayer is fitting.) Lord, in your mercy...

P: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

L: Cause your presence so to dwell among all the people of the world that peace and justice may flourish. Help the leaders of nations to be guided by your true Light, that they may act according to your will. God, in your mercy...

P: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

L: Be present with those who are ill and to all who are in any kind of distress or danger. Lord, in your mercy...

P: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

L: We give you thanks for the courage of Mary and for all who have gone before us, with them and the choirs of angels we sing in exultation!

P: GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO ALL PEOPLE ON EARTH.

CAROL: The First Noel

207

THE SECOND MEDITATION

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, what curious praise we bring to Jesus Christ in our presents to each other and how much we avoid by the mere giving of gifts. We are cut down to size by your storming grace and your love devastates us. We try to cushion ourselves against our mortality. We turn away from the times and places where your holy mysteries take our true measure. We want your magic, but not your judgment. O make us ashamed that we can settle for the crumbs that are our plenty, and show us in the clear mirror of your coming how peace must speak to wars, mercy to brokenness, love to fear. Let the blazing birth burn us down to honesty about our need for your hand upon us and your joy within our hearts. In the name of the Christ, born this night in us always, we pray as we were taught,

Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CAROL: Silent Night 208

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + + + +

We welcome you to this Christmas Eve service and hope that your Christmas will be blessed and the New Year a happy one.

Tomorrow we will share dinner at the pastor's home with all who wish to come. Please let anyone who is alone know that they are welcome to eat with us. Church members are asked to bring a dish appropriate to the season. Turkey and ham, stuffing and such will be provided. Dinner is at 3 p.m.

Tomorrow evening we will have our Sunday service (and Christmas service) at the usual time and place, 7 p.m. at this location. Bring friends and enjoy Christmas night with us.

We ask prayers for all who are alone and ill this Christmas, in particular for a young man named James who is ill, and for Ron Ford in the hospital.

We thank all who helped to make our Buddies' Christmas a lot pleasanter by their gifts and money and by the time they spent getting the stockings out to the recipients. Bless you all!!

" GOD BLESS US EVERYONE."

Metropolitan Community Church



AT MOBILE



MEIKOPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 1988

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: I will give thanks to God with all my heart in the company and assembly of the just.

P: Great are the works of God; exquisite in all their delights.

L: Majesty and glory are God's work and God's justice endures forever.

P: God is known for wondrous deeds; gracious and merciful is our God.

L: God has fed those who are reverent; and will ever be mindful of God's covenant.

P: God has sent deliverance to the people and ratified God's covenant forever.

L: Holy and awesome is the name of God. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom; prudent are all who live by it.

P: God's praise endures forever.

OPENING HYMN: Joy to the World 179

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 60: 13-21
Galatians 4: 4-7
Luke 2: 41-52

SERMON: Rev. Ragona

HYMN: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear 181

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: *Let There Be Peace on Earth* 157A

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we blunder through the days of our lives, vague and harried, running from our fears, racing we know not where. We seek pleasure without Joy, security without Peace, knowledge without Truth, belonging without Love. Burn away our facades and falsehood and by your grace fashion us into truly alive and exultant souls. Give us this new year filled with songs of harmony, brimming with your peace and let us live with joy, knowing that we are yours forever. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion

come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: *Let There Be Peace* 157A
So Tell It On the Mountain Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
MONDAY: "Boxing Day" at Chucks in Fairhope. Maps are at the back.

WEDNESDAY: Rap at the pastor's: Topic "Gayness and Homosexuality: Issues for the Church."

THURSDAY: Batchelorette Party and Dan and Mike's. See them for the address.

FRIDAY: Chip and Terry's Holy Union at Lafayette Square Clubhouse. The church family is invited.

SATURDAY: Nonalcoholic open house at the pastor's for those wishing to spend a sober New Year. We will be playing "Scruples," among other things.

SUNDAY: New Year's Service at the usual location.

The following week the pastor and Shirley are resting and working on the house. We hope you all have a happy New Year and had a wonderful Christmas.

Please remember your Buddy at this season, and try to see that s/he is not lonely or neglected. Remember the poor and those who have special needs at this season. Don't keep the faith -- give it away to those who need it.!!!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, Al 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

First Sunday after Christmas

Jan. 1, 1989

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Praise God, for God is good, sing praises to our God, for God is gracious.

P: God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

L: God tells the number of the stars; God calls each by name.

P: Great is our God and mighty in power; to God's wisdom there is no limit.

L: God sustains the lowly; the wicked God casts to the ground.

P: God is pleased with those who are fearful and hope for God's kindness.

OPENING HYMN: Arise, Your Light has Come 210

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Job 28: 20-28
I Corinthians 1: 18-25
Luke 2: 36-40

SERMON: "Smart" or "Wise"? Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Praise, My Soul, The God of Heaven 214

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Let All Mortal Flesh 176

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we, who are so often caught between the slow jests of time and the quick and lovely solemnities of thy love, confess our sins, which are many; our loneliness, which is frequent; our emptiness, which comes hard. At this table, fashioned and fired by thy mystery, take us and build us into thy strength; burn away our dross and brighten us in true joy. O give us this day the daily bread of thy forgiveness; and let the cup of thine abiding mercies quench our thirst in the dry places; through

Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you

P: And also with you

L: Lift up your hearts

P: We lift them up to God

L: Let us give thanks

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: O Zion, Hasten 206

BENEDICTION: L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

WEDNESDAY: Rap at the pastor's. New series of topics are being developed. If you have a special interest, please let us know.

Volunteers Needed: We now have keys to the AIDS resident. We desperately need to get one more apartment ready ASAP. Please see Shirley for details.

Congratulations to Chip and Terry. The ceremony was lovely and the reception quite grand. Love and much happiness.

We hope that everyone had a happy New Year's time. Peace and love for 1989.

The pastor and Shirley are resting and working on the house this week.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
1st Sunday After Epiphany January 8, 1989
SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Give God, people of God, give God glory and praise.

P: Give the glory due God's name; adore God in holy attire.

L: The voice of God is over the waters, the God of glory thunders over vast waters.

P: The voice of God is mighty and majestic; it breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

L: The voice of God twists the oaks and strips the forest, and all who are in the temple cry, "Glory!"

P: God is enthroned above the flood, enthroned as ruler forever. May God give strength to the people and bless the people with peace.

HYMN: Sing Praise to God, the All-Loving 151

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 42:1-9
Acts 10:34-39
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERMON:

HYMN: Arise, Your Light Has Come 210

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Come, Ye Disconsolate 101

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, you who are timeless and eternal, provide us with you as our companion as we begin a new year. Put from us the waste of hours, the dry seasons, the desolate evenings, and the shabby dawns. Show us the everlasting in the perishable, hope in defeat, purpose in chaos. Teach us that all things are sanctified through you, even our failures. We praise you for every moment when the work of our hands is blessed beyond our deserving and for every hour that our hearts are made glad by a wise and endless peace we did not earn. Hold us in your mercy and keep us yours, so that our years do not go by empty, drab and lost, but through you we are fulfilled, empowered, and found. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Hail To The Lord's Anointed 39

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
WEDNESDAY - RAP: Topic, "Private Lives in Public Places."
(What we think and feel about sex in public places. This grew out of a discussion of gays and the law.)

There will be a short board meeting immediately following the service. The Board will meet in the education building.

Pat Brown has resigned as treasurer, and Charlie P. has volunteered to fill the office until the next Congregational Meeting. If you would like to serve on the Board, please see the pastor or a Board member, and you will be considered.

The church has been given the use of a building for a residence for indigent and homeless PWAs. Many helped to clean and prepare the building for our first residents, James and Richard who are now living there. If you would like to help by preparing a casserole for their dinner meal or contributing food for their pantry, please see a Buddy to find out how you can help. Fruit is welcome, as is ice cream and other perishables. Let's see what we can all do to make them comfortable. A special thanks to John P., Bob, Chip and Terry, Bobby, Judson, "Sam", Denise, and every one else who helped to prepare the first two apartments. Special thanks to Shirley for getting the cleaning crews together and all her hard work. Blessings on the Volunteers of America for their help in contributing the building. (We need to prepare one more apartment -- if anyone wants to do it all over again. See Shirley.)

Do you know of a movie people would like to see for January movie night. Tell us and we'll try to track it down. Movie night Saturday, January 21.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
 SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mobile, AL. 36660
 (205) 476-9142
 January 15, 1989

CALL TO WORSHIP: God, your kindness reaches to heaven; your faithfulness to the clouds.

P: Your justice is like the mountains of God; your judgments like the mighty deep; human and animal you save, O God.
 L: How precious is your kindness, O God.
 P: We human children take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
 L: We have our fill of the prime gifts of your house; from cool streams you invite us to drink.
 P: With you is the fountain of life and in your light we see light.

OPENING HYMN: Hail to the Lord's Anointed 39

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 62:1-5
 I Corinthians 12:4-11
 John 2:1-12

SERMON: Leadership! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: So Send I You 244

DEDICATION TO THE MINISTRY AND THE DIACONATE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Kumbaya 116

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, sin seems to be contagious. We find ourselves following the one who appeals to our basest instincts and forget that you have made us to be our best. Sin is in all of us; it darkens your light. It agitates us before your calm. It knots in us and aches in us as we hear your truth. We know that sin can and does make us ill. Surely we need a physician and cannot heal ourselves. O God, whose forgiveness brims over all the world and whose mercies are the cures we seek to make all things well, forgive us this day and let your mercies cleanse us soul, body, and mind. Through Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray, saving: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Pass It On 49

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +
 Tonight we dedicate to the diaconate, Missy Smith, who is our first deacon since the death of Ken Jones. Also, we are dedicating Vern Dahmen who is beginning his walk toward becoming clergy in MCC. Both Missy and Vern are an asset to MCC at Mobile and we pray that they will minister among us with God's blessing.

MONDAY: Buddy Training. Speaker will be Shirley Maisel of the Volunteers of America, who will be talking about residential care and sharing some of the VOA experiences with us. We, in turn, will be sharing the Buddy Program with her. She is Assistant to the Director of the VOA in South Alabama.

WEDNESDAY: Rap. Topic: "What are you saying by what you are wearing?" Gay costumes (including leather, crossdressing, and "roles.")

SATURDAY: Board meeting with District Coordinator Mary Moore. All Board members are urged to attend.

SPECIAL THANKS to Chip, Terry, Charlie, Judson, Paul and Missy for helping move the residents at the Buddy House. Also thanks to Charlie for getting the TV fixed for the residents.

Movie night is cancelled due to the Osiris ball.

ENCOUNTER, INTERNATIONAL! Four gospotel-singers from MCC Long Beach, California will be with us the weekend of January 28 and 29. Creative dessert making is in order for the evening of the 28th. There is no charge, but a love offering will be received.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 3RD Sunday After Epiphany January 22, 1989
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Praise the name of God all you who are God's servants.

P: Blessed be the name of our God both now and frever.

L: From the rising to the setting of the sun is the name of God to be praised.

P: High above the nations is our God; above the heavens is God's glory.

L: God raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill God lifts up the poor to seat them with princes.

P: Who is like our God who is enthroned on high and looks upon the heavens and the earth below.

OPENING HYMN: O Worship Our God 40

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 8: 1-4a, 5-6, 8-10
 I Corinthians 12:12-30
 Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

SERMON: A Prophet Like Elijah! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Arise Your Light Has Come 210

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: The Doxology 132
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Pass Me Not 131

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we are sorry for what we do; for meanness, envy and self pity, for gossip, contentiousness and greed. For these small daily sins and for the large sins by which we injure the peace of the world and turn ourselves and others away from you, we pray forgiveness. Without you we are broken pieces -- but you have made us and can remake us. Mold us, console us, and redeem us; mend us and give us over to the uses of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God bewith you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP
 THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Now on Land and Sea Descending

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.
 PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
 Wednesday, Rap: Monday Morning Pronouns. (Changing genders of our companions when we talk to nongays.) (Also known as "passing!")

SATURDAY NIGHT: "Encounter", a group of gospel singing folks from MCC Long Beach, Calif. will be with us. Bring a desert to share and come join us for a rollicking evening of music and fun.

Sunday, Feb. 5 (Joe Cain Day): Deacon's breakfast with Bloody Mary's before the parade and festivities. Breakfast served at 10:00 a.m. Proceeds to the Deacon's Fund. (\$2.00 for breakfast, \$1.50 for Bloody Marys.)

ASH WEDNESDAY: Service at 7:00 p.m. There will be no rap. (February 8th).

Walter has graciously agreed to fill in tonight for Judson who had too much of a good thing at Osiris last night. We thank Walter and hope Jud will get over himself!! (Also Vern sends love, but is unwell, and Missy S. had to work.) Pray for everyone to be well and with us next week.

MONDAY: Buddy Care for the Caregivers at the pastor and Shirley's at 7:30. All Buddies need to be there. We will be making assignments for the Buddy House, and assigning new Buddies to new clients.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. BOX 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 1989

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: In you, O God, I take refuge; never let me be put to shame.

P: In your justice rescue me, and deliver me; incline your ear to me and save me.

L: Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety, for you are my rock and my refuge.

P: You are my hope, O God; my trust since I was a child; constant has been my hope in you.

L: My mouth shall be filled with your praise, with your glory from day to day.

P: I shall declare your justice, day by day your salvation, although their extent is more than I can understand.

Tog: O God, I will tell of your glory and your justice from now to the end of my days.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise to God who Gives us Life 150

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 1:4-10

I Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13

Luke 4:31-37

SERMON: The Power of Love

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Love Divine

127

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own

110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Something Beautiful (repeat)

6

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, you who are nameless and afar, yet love us like a parent and are "God among us," we live without you only by our own choosing. We try to hide from you -- yet yearn for you. We do not want you to scrutinize our lives too closely. We try to reduce you to our size, and by doing so lose you. Often we feel shallow, empty and defeated. We long for depth; we ache for fullness; we need to be loved. Out of our faith we ask you to trouble us, to find us, to forgive and restore us. We know that your love watches over us. Find our deepest need and there, in your love, meet us and fill us and heal us. In the name of the God who has made us, Jesus who has saved us, and the Spirit which enlivens us we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Heaven Came Down

72

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
We thank "Encounter, International" for being with us last night and today, and wish them well on their journey to other MCCs. Those of you who missed them last night, will enjoy their music this evening.

WEDNESDAY: Rap. Topic "Without my mask, I'd be..." Why we protect ourselves and how we can be more revealing without getting hurt.

The next six Wednesdays will be **given over** to an Ash Wednesday service and 5 Lenten raps on the nature of Jesus in the Gospels. Even if you are not "interested in the Bible" this series will broaden your knowledge and help you understand better the various ways the Gospel writers have portrayed Jesus.

Next Friday, Saturday and Sunday the pastor and Shirley will be in Birmingham teaching Birmingham Aids Outreach the fundamentals of starting a Buddy Program. **Vern** will be in care of pastoral concerns and Charlie will be in charge of Administration. Please remember that Vern sleeps days and works nights. Vern will be preaching next Sunday. He and Missy Smith will be in charge of the service. Please support our new leadership!!!

Remember Joe Cain Day breakfast at the Pastor's!!!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

The Transfiguration of Jesus: End of Epiphany February 5, 1989

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: God is king, the nations tremble; God is enthroned on the cherubs,

P: Earth quakes; God is great in Zion.

L: God is high over all nations; may they praise your great and terrible name,

P: 'Holy is God, and mighty!'

L: You are a God who loves justice, insisting on honesty, justice, virtue, as you have done for Jacob.

P: Let us extol our God and worship at God's throne, 'Holy is God!'

OPENING HYMN: Jesus Calls Us

41

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

II Corinthians 4: 3-6

Luke 9: 28-36

SERMON: Jesus must die! The Son of God?

Rev. Dahmen

HYMN: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

113

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: The Doxology

132

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: He Keeps Me Singing

161

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, so many times we see the crosses you give us to bear and we pass them by because they are too inconvenient or too much of a bother, forgive us for the times we "forget" how much you loved us—a love so great even our brother Jesus was not spared from the death we all face. Help us to remember that in our baptism we become a part of you — grace-filled and divine! Help us to remember that you always remain within us and part of us, even when we turn from you. Help us to live, not only in our minds but in our actions too, that wonderful divine life you have graced us with, unworthy though we are. Continue to use us, mold us, mend us and give us over to the uses of your great love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name.

Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: We've A Story to Tell

142

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: Wednesday is ASH WEDNESDAY, the beginning of the Lenten season to prepare for Easter. This week there will be a Service of Ashes at 7:30p.m., Wednesday, here at the UU's. Bring a friend!

RAPS: The Lenten Raps begin next week, the 15th, at the pastor's home and will focus on the "Nature of Jesus in the Gospels". You'll find them as interesting as the Advent raps! Bring a friend and share the WORD!

BOARD MEETING: Saturday, February 11th, 10:00a.m.! at the pastor's home. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PLEASE BE THERE!

THANK YOU!: To Encounter International for their beautiful music last week-end. Peace and Saftety as they travel to our sisters and brothers across the country.

PRAY: For Marge and Shirley's safe return home this evening, our Buddies and all care-givers, all who have no one to support them.

Have a HOLY WEEK!

*Thanks to Charlie P. and all who made the
Deacon's Breakfast a success this morning!*



P.O. Box 6068
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 Ash Wednesday
 Mobile, AL 36660
 (205) 476-9142
 February 8, 1989

CALL TO WORSHIP: Have mercy on me, O God, in yur godness.
 P: In the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offenses.
 L: Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and from my sin cleanse me, for I acknowledge my offense and my sin is before me always.
 P: Against you, O God only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.
 L: Behold you are pleased with sincerity of heart and in my innermost being you teach me wisdom.
 P: Cleanse me with hyssop that I may be purified; wash me and I shall be clean as new fallen snow.
 L: Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness; my very bones shall rejoice.
 P: Turn away your face from my sins and blot out my guilt.
 L: Create a clean heart within me, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
 P: Cast me not from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.
 L: Restore unto me the joy of my salvation and a willing spirit sustain in me.
 P: Then I will teach transgressors your ways and sinners shall return to you.
 L: Free me from bloodguiltiness, O my saving God; then my tongue shall revel in your justice.
 P: O God, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
 L: For you are not pleased with holocausts and sacrifices, and should I offer a holocaust, you would not accept it.
 P: My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.

HYMN: Kum ba Yah

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Zechariah 7:4-10
 I Corinthians 9:19-27
 Luke 5:29-35

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

THE DISPENSING OF ASHES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN:

+ + + + + + +

Yea God, we are glad in thee, and sing thee,
 And declare thee, who art joy to the mourners,
 A new music to them that be bowed down,
 The Word of hope for the lost.

Thou art as daylight to our murk and dark.
 Thou art as burning against our cold.
 Thou art the sky blue above our winter
 And the stirring in the dead ground.

O that our tongues had the burning
 And our eyes the daylight and our hands the sky
 And our hearts the stirring that we might praise thee!

Thy gifts are always given. They are now!
 And thy glory is always breaking around us. Amen.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL. 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 12, 1989

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: All you who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty;

P: Say to our God, "My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."

L: For God will rescue from the snare of the fowler, from the destroying pestilence.

P: You will be covered by God's pinions, and take refuge under God's wings; God's faithfulness is a buckler and a shield.

L: You shall not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day.

P: Not the pestilence that roams in darkness, nor the devastating plague at noon.

L: For God has given the angels commands about you that they guard you in all your ways.

P: That they bear you up upon their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

OPENING HYMN: A Mighty Fortress is Our God (Version 2) 250

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 26:5-11
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

SERMON: BREAD AND CIRCUSES

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Doxology 132

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Just As I Am 37

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Hear our confession, gracious God, and in your mercy, pardon and revive us. Sometimes we are too comfortable, tempted by the easy way, lukewarm in our love for you. Sometimes we find it easier to deny you, to set our hearts on our own purposes, but not your purpose, working our own works but not your work, acting on our own truth but not your truth. Sometimes we want to live graciously, but without your grace. God, defend us from our ideas of our own goodness, our successes and our ease. Root us in dense and holy depths that we may have life more abundant and free. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our

daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Higher Ground

52

+ + + + +
Tonight we will receive a second offering for the Third World Ministries of MCC. This offering is similar to the "Home Missions" offerings in many churches, and goes to support the work of MCC among people of color, including support for the Third World Christian Conference, an outreach to Black, Hispanic and Oriental gays, many of whom are unreached by the message that God loves them -- and accepts their gayness. Please help us reach many people who have been untouched by this word.

We wish Happy Valentine to all our couples and all lovers everywhere. Remember your love with a special touch this week. "Everyone who loves is of God!"

MIDWEEK RAP FOR LENT will be five weeks of special raps on how we relate to the Jesus of the Gospels. Mark's Jesus is very human, Luke's is an activist, Matthew's is a priest, John's is the risen-All Knowing, and Paul's is the risen King and Judge. We each relate better to one or the other. Let's look at how we experience Jesus and how he can become more real to us. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the pastor's home.

SATURDAY, MOVIE NIGHT: Films of the Gay Olympics. This is a chance to see gay athletes in action (and don't tell me we don't enjoy that kind of thing!!!) Pot luck supper at 7:00, film at 8:00, at the pastor's home.

MONDAY, FEB. 20: Buddy Training, Dr. Lynn Marks, update on the AIDS virus and medical progress report. All buddies are encouraged to attend.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, LOVER!!



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

2nd Sunday in Lent

February 19, 1989

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Hear, O God, the sound of my call; have mercy on me and answer me.

P: Of you my heart speaks; you my eyes seek; your presence, O God, I long for.

L: Hide not your face from me; do not in anger repel me.

P: You are my helper: cast me not off; do not forsake me O God, my savior.

L: Though my father and mother forsake me, yet will God receive me.

P: Show me your way, O God, and lead me on a level path.

L: Give me not up to the wishes of my foes, for false witnesses have risen against me and they breathe out violence.

P: I believe I shall see the bounty of God in the land of the living.

Tog: Wait for God with courage; be stouthearted and wait for our God.

OPENING HYMN: O Worship Our God 40

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Phillipians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

SERMON: Those Who Come in the Name of the Lord Rev. Ragona

HYMN: God Will Take Care of You 162

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: There's Something About That Name 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, whose name is mystery, that which we cannot name, we live without you by our own choosing. We are afraid to have you meddle in our affairs. We try to reduce you to our size, and thereby lose you. Often we feel shallow, empty and defeated. We long for depth, we ache for fullness, we need satisfaction. Out of our little faith, we ask you to trouble us, find us, forgive us and restore us. Complete your work in us, that we may be made whole by the love of the One who taught us to pray saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: They That Wait Upon The Lord 237

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
MONDAY: Buddy Training, 7:30 p.m. at the pastor and Shirley's. Speaker: Dr. Lynn Marks, topic "Update on the disease." You are all welcome to hear Dr. Marks and all buddies are asked to attend.

WEDNESDAY: Lenten Rap - Who is Jesus? (A short description of Mark's Jesus and then discussion of the human Jesus will follow.) We had a wonderful discussion about Jesus as we experience him now in our lives. Come and enjoy our Lenten rap.

We're sorry you missed movie night -- the Gay Games film was excellent and we thank Chip for arranging for us to see it. Remember that we do this once a month and promise an enjoyable evening for everyone.

At the last Board meeting, we suggested that a downtown location would make most of us happier. If anyone would like to help search for a new location, please see the pastor, and maybe we can locate a place where people will find us more easily.

We have another apartment to clean for the Buddy House. Please check your schedules and talk with Shirley, and let's see if we can get one more apartment ready. There are people who are in need of housing and we need to have things ready.

Also, anyone with carpentry skills who would like to help build a shed at the Buddy House to store our equipment, please see Shirley.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

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Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

Third Sunday in Lent

February 26, 1989

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Bless God, O my soul; and all my being,
Bless God's holy name.

P: Bless God, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

L: Go pardons and our iniquities and heals all our ills.

P: God redeems our lives from destruction and crowns us
with kindness and compassion.

L: God fills our lifetimes with good; our youth is renewed
like the eagle's.

P: God secures justice and the rights of the oppressed.

L: God's ways were made known to Moses and God's deeds to
the children of Israel.

P: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding
in mercy.

L: God does not always chide, nor is God's wrath kept for-
ever.

P: God does not deal with us according to our sins nor re-
quite us according to our crimes.

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpas-
sing is God's kindness to those who stand in awe of God.

P: As far as the east is from the west, God has put our
transgressions from us.

OPENING HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

174

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 4:1-15

I Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

SERMON: Individual vs. Corporate Suffering

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Breathe On Me, Breath of God

33a

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - Doxology

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: O Jesus, Let Me Walk With Thee

26

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, gracious, good, and forever
patient, how can you suffer us, your lukewarm people who
are neither hot nor cold toward your very sweet persuasions?
You wait long for those who will not turn to you for love,
and so from fear to trust, from sin to grace, from death to
endlessness and eternity. How do you bear with us who, day
by day, are indolent before you and like the fig tree bear
no fruit? O shake us down to earth and by mercy's soft blows

enliven us to live toward you; bend us in adoration and
praise that flesh may honor you and souls may seek you. You
who takes for your own, receive our praise and hear our
prayer: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion
come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against you. Do not bring us to the test, but
deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and
the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Our God is Like an Eagle

43

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
THERE WILL BE A SHORT BOARD MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
WORSHIP SERVICE.

MONDAY: Buddy Cares Meeting, 7:30 at the pastor and Shirley's.

WEDNESDAY: Rap Group: Who was Jesus to Mark/to Luke? Why
was that different from any other God-figure? How does what
the Gospel writers affect our beliefs about Jesus today?
Who was the Jesus we learned about in Sunday School? Come
and enjoy a slightly different kind of rap during Lent.

This week begins the month of March. Everyone is invited to
think about what MCC at Mobile should be like in our fifth
year -- what changes, what new programs, what eliminations
will be necessary? Where do we want to move? Many decisions
face us as this month we begin a new year. You are all
invited to a potluck on March 11th to begin those plans.
(Saturday, 6 p.m.) This is our real anniversary, although
we will be celebrating it in April (April 15th) with the
District Coordinator present and Rev. Lee Carlton preaching
that Sunday.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 60668

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

4TH SUNDAT IN LENT

March 5, 1989

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: I will bless God at all times; God's praise will be ever in my mouth.

P: Let my mouth glory in God; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

L: Come, glorify our God with me; together let us extol God's name.

P: I sought God and was answered and delivered from all my fears.

L: Look to God that you may be radiant with joy and your faces shall not blush with shame.

P: When the afflicted called out, God heard and saved them from their distress.

L: Taste and see how Good our God is; happy is the one who takes refuge in our God.

P: Fear God, you holy ones; for nought is lacking to those who are in awe of our God.

OPENING HYMN: Immortal, Invisible

225

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Joshua 5:9-12

II Corinthians 5:11-21

Luke 15:11-32

SERMON: Excuses, excuses, excuses

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?

163

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Jesus Paid It All

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

83

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we have foundered in the darkness, fought with demons, and lost. Our community drags the chains of fear linked upon fear. It is broken with self-punishment. Come to us, fearful, sinful and mortal. By your love persuade us, by forgiveness heal us, and by mercy resurrect us. Let the love of Jesus the Christ brood in our hearts, until we know, as you have always told us, that your forgiveness is given seventy times seven and even forevermore. We praise you for Jesus who lost most of the battles, for your Holy Spirit who speech is often incoherent, and for yourself, that you are there for us when the fearful ones run away. In the Name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in

heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: O How I Love Jesus

226

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + + + +

WEDNESDAY: Rap: The Teaching Jesus. Where do we get our morals and ethics from? Ar they what Jesus taught?

FRIDAY: If the Board wishes, the Board Meeting from Tuesday can be moved to Friday. On Tuesday, the pastor and Shirley will be in Houston for Rev. Marge's computer training course for Springhill Hospital.

WEDNESDAY: March 15: There will be no rap due to Rev. Marge's absence in Houston. We plan to attend MCC Houston that night.

SATURDAY: March 18: Movie Night and Potluck. Hopefully, we will have the March on Washington film.

March 19th is Palm Sunday, and we will have a special service that Sunday and the Sunday following which is Easter. Let's talk, immediately after the service, about an Easter dawn service.

REMEMBER THE POTLUCK ON MARCH 11TH, WHEN WE WILL BE PLANNING THE CHURCH'S FUTURE. WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT MOVING DOWNTOWN, ESPECIALLY.

Richard was returned to Foley to the care of his family. I know that all our prayers go with him.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 12, 1989

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: To you, O God, I call; O my Rock be not deaf to me,

P: Lest, if you head me not, I become one of those going down into the pit.

L: Hear the sound of my pleading, when I cry to you,

P: Lifting up my hands toward your holy shrine.

L: Drag me not away with the wicked, with those who do wrong,

P: Who speak civilly to their neighbors though evil is in their hearts.

L: Blessed be God, for God has heard my pleading;

P: In God is my strength and my shield. In God my heart trusts and I find help; then my heart exults, and with my song I give God thanks.

L: God is the strength of God's people, the saving refuge of the anointed ones.

P: Save your people, and bless your inheritance; feed them, and carry them forever!

OPENING HYMN: Praise Be To God, The Almighty

195

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Philippians 3: 8-14

Luke 20: 9-19

SERMON: TENANTS, THE RENT IS DUE.

Rev. Dahmen

HYMN: Count Your Blessings

97

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs 1)

110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: There Is A Fountain

175

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God of love and mercy, as we move closer to the mystery of your Easter love for us, we are still filled with the awesome love you have continued to pour out on us even when we turned from you. We are selfish, vain and cruel, but we are loving, caring and gentle too. We can't always explain our actions and sometimes act without even thinking. Help us to stop and consider what you would do when we are tempted to be

selfish, vain and cruel. Help us to remember what it feels like when we are rejected, spurned and made fun of. Help us to be the loving caretakers of this earth and its people as you have called us to be. Teach us to channel our anger and hate into things that will benefit our sisters and brothers. Allow us to be the instruments of change and challenge rather than the instruments of hurt and humiliation. Give us the confidence to pray with our brother Jesus: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: They That Wait Upon the Lord

237

+++++ No RAP this Wednesday.

EASTER DAWN service at 8:00 a.m. in Chuck Torrey's front yard (Fairhope) over looking Mobile Bay. Make plans to be there March 26th.

Buddy Training at the pastor's on Monday the 20th!

Pray for Marge and Shirley's safety in traveling to and from Houston this week. If you need spiritual help call Vern or Missy and for administrative needs call one of the board.

Pray especially hard in the next few weeks that the Church will find the home we need downtown. It's close but not ours yet!

Remember all of our sick and abandoned brothers and sisters in your prayers this week. Also, pray over your financial help to this Church and let's see if we can pay our bills.

See you next week - bring a friend, or a member who hasn't been here for awhile!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476- 9142
PALM SUNDAY March 19, 1989
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: In you, O God, I have put my trust, never
 let me be put to shame.

P: In your justice rescue me, incline your ear to me. Make
 haste to deliver me!

L: Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety.

P: You are my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake you
 will lead and guide me.

L: You will set me free from the snares they have set for me,
 for you are my refuge.

P: Into your hands I commend my spirit; you will redeem me,
 O faithful God.

L: You hate those who worship vain idols, but my trust is in
 you, O God.

P: I will rejoice and be glad of your kindness when you have
 seen my affliction and watched over me in my distress.

OPENING HYMN: How Firm a Foundation 141

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: *Shiloh* Deuteronomy 32:36-39
Tom Philippians 2:5-11

HYMN CHORUS: Something About that Name 14

READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 22:14 - 23:56

Tom 1st Reader - Luke 22:14-20

HYMN: Bread of Life (Vs. 1 and 4) 44

Shiloh 2nd Reader: Luke 22:21-30

HYMN: My Jesus, I Love Thee (Vs 1 and 2) 54

✓ 3rd Reader - Luke 22:31-34

HYMN: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Vs. 2 and 4) Printed

M 4th Reader - Luke 22: 39-46

HYMN: Amazing Grace (Vs. 1 and 2) 33

✓ 5th Reader - Luke 22: 54-62

HYMN: Something Beautiful 6

M 6th Reader - Luke 22:66 - Luke 23: 26

HYMN: Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?(Vs. 1 and 3) 163

M 7th Reader - Luke 23: 27- 43

HYMN: Blessed Redeemer Printed

8th Reader - Luke 23:44-56

HYMN: My Tribute 56

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own(Vs 1) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONVESSION: Gentle Lord, on this day which celebrates
 both your simplicity and the power of your cross, we confess
 that we have been more in love with pomp and circumstance than
 with meekness and sacrifice. Lift up our eyes to see again
 and understand the mystery of the green tree and the meek king.
 Surprise us by intuition and let us see beyond the big lies
 to the simple truths. Give us honest eyes to see the falsehoods
 that beset us and turn us again to Jesus who redeems all
 things by quiet victories. Blessed is the One who bids our
 pride fall to its knees, who awakens us to joy, and who shines
 vast love on all our fears. Blessed is the quiet Word of God
 which builds up our waste places and give us new life. With
 Jesus we pray: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your
 dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as
 we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the
 test but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the
 reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. L: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. L: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
 earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed
 is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
 highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Heaven Came Down 72

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

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Remember Easter Dawn service at Fairhope on Chuck Torrey's
 front yard. Breakfast will be served following the service.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068 Mobile, AL 36660
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 Easter Sunday March 26, 1989
 SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Give thanks to God who is good; whose mercy endures forever.

P: My strength and my courage is God who has been my savior.
 L: There is a joyful shout of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of God has struck with power...
 P: "The right hand of God is exalted; the right hand of God has struck with power."
 L: I shall not die, but live and shall declare the works of our God.
 P: Though God has chastised me ineed, yet God has not delivered me to death.
 L: I will give thanks to God, for you have answered me and been my savior.
 P: This is the day which God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING HYMN: Christ the Lord is Risen Today 218

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 15:1-11
 I Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 24:1-11

SERMON: We Have Seen and We Believe Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Day of Resurrection 215

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Doxology 132
 Offertory Prayer

COMMUNION HYMN: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 176

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Hear, mighty God, how with one voice we speak our sorrow for our sins, for those darknesses within us that we set between ourselves and thee. We are creatures of little prides, lazy minds, meager trust and envious heart. The world we fear is our own creation. We are netted in by stupidities and nighted in by our unwillingness to see. Take us now, majestic and merciful One, and teach us the hard lesson of forgiveness -- yours first and then ours, for even when you have forgiven us we find it hard to forgive ourselves. Let the Love we deny save us; through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord, who taught us to pray, saving: Our God in heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not

into temptation and deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: He Lives 216

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
 MONDAY: Buddy Care for the Caregiver. Everyone who is a Buddy is free to attend; this meeting is for you.

WEDNESDAY: There is no rap until we can see what our financial situation will be with the new location. Invite people to come see the new location, however.

We thank Chuck Torrey for lending us his house and porch for our Easter Dawn service. Fairhope is absolutely beautiful at this time of year and the dogwoods and the bay were lovely.

Remember that our Anniversary Dinner is just three weeks away, and there is much planning to be done. We need a banquet committee, a decoration committee, entertainment committee, and awards committee. See Rev. Marge if you would like to help -- if you don't, she will see you! Ms. Moore, the District Coordinator, will be with us that weekend.

The Mobile AIDS Coalition is attempting to find us some money to help support the Buddy Program. Your prayers are asked to help Mr. St. Clair move the hearts of the business community with our community's needs.

Remember the Names Project Quilt will be in Birmingham on the weekend of the 21 and 22nd of April. Many of us are planning to attend; you plan, too!

We hope you all had a Happy Easter -- but remember that Easter is not a day -- it is a season and a way of thinking. Because Christ lives, we can face tomorrow!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

P.O. Box 6068

Mobile, AL 36660

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

1st Sunday After Easter

April 2, 1989

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP - L: Sing to God a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

P: Let us be glad in God our maker; let us rejoice in the One who rules over all.

L: Let us praise God's name in festive dance; let us sing praise to God with timbrel and harp.

P: For God loves the people and adorns the lowly with victory.

L: Let the faithful exult in glory; let us sing for joy, let the praise of God be in our throats.

P: Let the praise of God be in our voices; this is the glory of the faithful.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise to God Who Gives Us Life 150

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 5:12-16
Revelations 1:9-19
Luke 24:13-32

SERMON: On the Road Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Immortal, Invisible 225

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Glory Be to God on High (Chorus only) 108

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Open My Eyes 224

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, searcher of hearts: You alone know who we really are. You know our faults -- that we are sometimes lazy in our devotion to that which is holy; that we are embarrassed in the presence of that which is pure; that we are fearful and slow in acceptance of that which is true. You know us: that we carry hate in our hearts, evil on our tongues and greed in our hands. But you know, too, our hunger for that which truly satisfies, our ability to reach out in love and compassion toward others whom you champion, and our desire to truly follow you. You know us: You know the warfare within us between that which is evil and that which is good. You know, O God, that you alone give the peace that stills our storms within. Teach us to answer hate with love, betrayal with honesty, mercy given and received in a merciless world. Let your Christ understand us and know us, and through him may we be forgiven, renewed and restored. We pray in his name: Our Creator in heaven, hallowed is your name. Your

dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. L: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. L: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Because Christ Lives

75 Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +

This is our last Sunday worshipping in this space. Next Sunday we will be worshipping at 278 Dauphin Street at the corner of North Jackson. We will worship at the same time, 7:00 p.m.

Shirley and Judson will be looking for help in moving things from the storage locker to the new church location and the Buddy Building. Please see them for time and location.

HELP WANTED: We need people to help us paint the interior of the new sanctuary. Again, if you want to help, please see Shirley and Judson. If we work at it evenings, we can have it done for our anniversary service.

We will have an anniversary cookout at the pastor's on April 15th. Salads and meats appropriate for a cookout can be brought that day. An open bar will be available in keeping with the festive tone of the evening. Come and bring friends -- celebrate our new beginning with us. The District Coordinator is coming that weekend.

District Conference is the end of the month in Greenville. If you would like to go, please see Charlie to sign up.

Names Project will be in Birmingham the weekend of the 21st and 22nd. We will be carpooling to Birmingham that weekend. See Judson for details.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36603
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 April 9, 1989 Third Sunday in Easter
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will extol you, O God, for you drew
 me clear and did not let my enemies
 rejoice over me.

P: O God, my God, I cried out to you and you healed me.
 L: Sing praise to God, you faithful ones and give thanks to
 God's holy name.

P: You changed my mourning into dancing; you took off my
 sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.

L: O that my soul might sing praise to you without ceasing.

P: O God, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

OPENING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You 153

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 5:27-42
 Revelation 5:11-14
 John 21:1-19

SERMON: What Do We Mean by "Love?" Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Living for Jesus 79

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: You Are Lord (Sing twice.) 5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we are aware of our weakness and
 worried by our guilt. We know the evil around us and in us.
 Arouse us by love. Warm us with forgiveness for each other
 and for ourselves. Turn our hands to compassion, our minds
 to reason, and our hearts to trust. Ready us for the wounds
 we must bear, and enliven us with such trust in you that our
 prayers may be honest and our lives put to the uses of joy.
 You have taken and are taking us, molding us, holding and
 consoling us. You have saved us and given us heaven. Praise
 be to you, our God, forever and ever; through Jesus Christ
 who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven: Holy is
 your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as
 it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and
 forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For
 yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever.
 Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. L: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace; Heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God 166

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + + + +

We welcome you to our new worship space and eventually to
 a center for all church activities. We hope that in this
 location, our community will see us and feel drawn to want
 to know more about us.

We thank all those who had a part in putting this worship
 space together -- especially Judson who spearheaded the job,
 along with Shirley, Dennis, Susan, Mike (whom we thank for
 the painting and the Pentecost banner), James Mitchell,
 Charlie, James Miller, and the pastor. Painters, cleaners,
 window washers and decorators all helped to make this area
 attractive and more especially OURS. Thank you, all.

Immediately after service we would like to talk about what
 we want to do for our anniversary celebration now that we
 have the building. With a couple of microwaves, we could
 have a wonderful potluck supper here and enjoy our first
 activity (beyond worship) in our new facility. Let's talk
 immediately after service. (It would be a wonderful way
 of inviting the community to join us!!)

Monday: Board Meeting, at the pastor's. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: Mary Moore, District Coordinator is expected for
 her yearly pass-through.

Sunday: 4th Anniversary Service, 7:00 p.m.

NAMES PROJECT: Birmingham, April 21 and 22. Carpooling. If
 you would like to go, see Judson.

District Conference, April 28, 29, 30 in Greenville, S.C.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36602
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 4th Sunday in Easter April 16, 1989
 SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Sing joyfully to God, all you lands;
 serve God with gladness and joyful song.
 P: Know that the Lord is God; God who has made us and whose
 we are; we are the flock that God tends.
 L: Enter into these gates with thanksgiving and into God's
 courts with praise; Give thanks to God
 P: Give thanks to God; bless the name of our God for God is
 good.
 L: God's kindness endures forever;
 P: And God's faithfulness to all generations.

OPENING HYMN: The Church's One Foundation 242

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 13: 43-52
 Revelations 7:9-17
 John 10: 22-30

SERMON: Blessed Assurance Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Blessed Assurance 100

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Glory Be to God on High (Chorus only) 108
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: There's A Church Within Us 227

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, you have returned us
 from the wandering in our separate wildernesses and summoned
 us from our separate darknesses; you have called us into
 the daylight. Let our prayers come to you, fragile and be-
 wildered and broken though we may be, until we know that
 falsehood is always challenged by your Truth and vanity is
 shaken by your Power. We are restless for your peace and
 want your righteousness made plain within our souls. We know
 that every day is a gift, every love is a gift, every hope is
 a gift, for you give yourself to us over and over, forever and
 ever. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:
 Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come,
 your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this
 day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive
 those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
 deliver us from evil; for thine is the power, the reign and
 the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Dwelling in Beulah Land 13

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +

THANK YOU: Thanks to everyone who had part in last night's
 wonderful anniversary celebration; special thanks to
 Charlie and James who bore most of the responsibility for
 getting the food together (thank James for many, many phone
 calls) and to Chip and Terry for being excellent bartenders.
 Special thanks to Judson for the tables and for those who
 helped move, set up, and take down the dining area. Again,
 thanks to the painters and cleaners for all their work so
 that last night could happen in such pleasant surroundings.

WISH LIST: 1x6x12" boards for baseboards (about \$6.00 ea.),
 a lectern (Bible stand), 4 sheets of 3/8" plywood, 2x4's,
 4 gallons of satin or semi-gloss white paint. Anyone wishing
 to contribute is welcome to talk to the carpenter (Rev.Marge)
 who'd like to do some more work in the back and also build
 a raised altar stand.

We thank Judson for the table flowers last night and David
 Pruitt for the centerpiece. A few flowers for the altar
 each Sunday would be a nice addition, also plants for the
 entry. If you are interested, see Shirley. See James to
 schedule yourself for refreshments after church.

This week's schedule is deliberately light, to allow all
 who worked so hard to rest. Remeber the NAMES PROJECT will
 be in Birmingham this weekend, and some are planning to go.
 See Judson for information.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE is April 28,29 and 30; a representative
 of the laity is needed since Charlie and James will be in
 Germany for vacation. (Conference is in Greenville, S.C.)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36602
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 5th Sunday in Easter April 23, 1989
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will extol you, O my Ruler and my
 God; I will bless your name forever
 and ever.

P: Every day I will bless you; I will praise your name
 forever and ever.

L: Great is our God and highly to be praised; God's
 greatness is unsearchable.

P: Generation after generation praises your works and
 proclaims your might.

L: Let all your works give you thanks, O God; let your
 faithful bless you.

P: Let them tell of the glory of your dominion and speak
 daily of your might.

L: Your dominion exists for all ages; your rule endures
 through all generations.

Tog: May my mouth speak the praise of God and may al flesh
 praise God's holy name forever and ever.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise to God the All-Loving 151

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 14:8-18
 Revelation 21:1-6
 John 13:31-35

SERMON: FAITH, LOVE AND EMPOWERMENT Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Love Divine 127

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Just As I Am 37

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we sin and add to the world's
 misery. Given each other to love, all humanity to hope for
 and yourself to trust, we are too busy for love, too anxious
 for hope, and too proud to trust. We watch the four pale
 horsemen ride -- famine, war, pestilence and death, and too
 often do nothing, when you have called us to be messengers
 of love and hope. By your mercy, forgive us and all people
 for what we do to one another. Deliver us from these things
 that shame us. Teach us to live compassionately and to spend
 our lives on those things that help cure the world's sorrow.
 Teach us the lesson of forgiveness for each other and for
 ourselves. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray,

saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion
 come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give
 us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we
 forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the
 test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the
 reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: They'll Know We Are Christians 213

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +

MONDAY: Care for the Caregiver, at the church, 7:00 p.m.
 Please come if you are buddying someone. We have had two
 recent deaths and people need your support.

REST IN PEACE: Ron Ford, who was present at the founding of
 this church, and while not a member was a supporter of the
 church and its programs, died last night in his sleep. We
 mourn Ron and seek God's comfort on his long-time partner
 Monty. Monty has asked for a memorial service in our church,
 and we will be in contact with him to plan that service.

SATURDAY: Red Cross Home Nursing training. Everyone needs
 to remember to report to the Red Cross by 9:00 a.m. on
 Saturday.

NAMES PROJECT: The Names Project has been in Birmingham
 this weekend. Judson, Jim and Susan went to view the panels
 and should be home by service time. We ask safe journey
 for them as they travel and success in the mission of the
 NAMES PROJECT, which is to call attention to the enormous
 numbers who have been lost while it memorializes them.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Mike and Marge are going to Greenville
 this weekend. If you would like to come, please see Marge.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

278 Dauphin St.

Mobile, AL 36603

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

April 30, 1989

6th Sunday in Easter

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: May God have mercy on us and bless us:

P: May God let his face shine upon us.

L: So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.

P: May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

L: May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the people in equity; the nations on earth you guide.

P: May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you!

L: The earth has yielded its fruits; God has blessed us.

P: May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth praise God!

OPENING HYMN: Praise to God and Thanks We Bring 95

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 15: 1-6, 22-29
Revelations 21: 10-14, 22-23
John 14: 23-29

SERMON: Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Leaning On The Everlasting Arms 89

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs. 1) 1110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Bread of Life 44

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O, God, you alone know who we really are. You know us: that we sometimes carry hate in our hearts, speak evil of others and seek selfish rewards. But you know too, our need for that which truly satisfies. Our need for peace, that peace that allows us to reach out to others in love and compassion and to truly follow your ways. You know the struggle within us between that which is good and that which is evil. O, God, give us the peace that ends the struggle. Teach us to offer love, not hate; honesty, not deception; and mercy and compassion in a merciful world. Let Christ understand and guide us and through him may we be forgiven, renewed and restored. We offer this prayer in

his name: Our God in heaven: Holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Let There Be Peace On Earth 157A

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you P: And also with you

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

Marge and Mike, hopefuully had a good District Conference trip this weekend. Marge and Shirley celebrated their fourth anniversary apart. We will run away soon to celebrate..... and they said it wouldn't last.

Charlie and James return from Germany this week. Pray for their safe return.

Mike B. and Dan dropped a line to us last week. They miss everyone and ask to be remebered as they still seek jobs.

Friday night???? Clean yet one more apartment at the Buddy House.

Saturday???? Remove all equipment from the storage bin.

Saturday Need to send a Buddy Rep. to the CBO meeting in Birmingham. Any volunteers????????? See Marge or SAL.

Mother's Day in two weeks. Bring your Mom to church.

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH. HELP SPREAD THE WORD.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
 278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36602
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 Ascension Sunday May 7, 1989
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: God said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand
 till I make your enemies your footstool."

P: The scepter of your power God will stretch forth from
 Zion; "Rule in the midst of your enemies."

L: Yours is the royal power in the day of your birth, in
 holy splendor; before the daystar, like the dew, I have
 begotten you."

P: God has sworn and will not repent: "You are a priest
 forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

L: God is at your right hand, and will crush rulers on the
 of the day of God's wrath.

P: God will exact judgment on the nations, but for God's
 own from the brook by the wayside shall that One drink;
 and his head will be lifted up.

OPENING HYMN: My Tribute 56

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:1-11
 Ephesians 1:16-23
 Luke 24:44-53

SERMON: YOU Shall Have Power! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: There Is Power in the Blood 84

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1 only) 110
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Heaven Came Down 72

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we confess the punishment of our
 own sin: Our hates make relationships impossible, our fears
 keep us in chains, our pride imprisons us. Sin becomes a
 lash, a manacle, a wall; and we wonder why we are dungeoned
 in from the air of life and solitary from your joy. We pray
 for the keys of forgiveness to burst the locks and set us
 free again and again. Make us a community of hopeful ones
 and joyous ones. Show us, O God, that we have cause for hope,
 cause for rejoicing in Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:
 Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come,
 your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this
 day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive
 those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
 deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and
 the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD-THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Higher Ground 52

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.
 THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +
 Remember Mother's Day next Sunday and invite your mother
 or a Lesbian mother to church!!

We want to thank all those who helped with the cleaning at
 the Buddy residence and in helping to move the articles from
 the locker to the Buddy residence. You are all saints and
 are gathering stars for your crowns!

CANOE TRIP: If you are interested in a canoe trip with over-
 night camping on May 20-21 (back in time for church), cost
 \$32.00; see James after service. Everything is included in
 the one price.

Buddy Training - Monday, May 15th. Dr. Sara Jo Daniel is
 the trainer, taling about where we go from here. Next month's
 trainer will be Ben Bowles, subject will be the drug using
 PWA. Both are open to anyone in the community.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Bobby W. and everybody who was born in May.

Welcome back, Charlie and James! Glad you made it home from
 Germany.

We're counting down with Larry. Two weeks to go. We wish
 Larry and Richard our best, and our love goes with them.

ATFA is looking for someone to testify in Washington about
 discrimination against PWAs. If you know anyone who has lost
 a job due to HIV status, please call Shirley and tell us.
 We would like to have them testify to the Kennedy Commission
 and help put pressure on Alabama to improve the life of PWAs.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36602
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
PENTECOST SUNDAY May 14, 1989
SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Bless God, O my soul! O God, you are great indeed!

P: You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak.
 L: You have spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth and constructed your palace upon the waters.
 P: You make the clouds your chariot and travel on the wings of the wind.
 L: You make the winds your messengers and flaming fire is your minister.
 P: When you send forth your spirit, we are created and you renew the face of the earth.
 L: May the glory of God endure forever; may God's works be pleasing eternally.
 P: I will sing to God all my life; I will sing praise to God all the days of my life.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise to God Who Gives Us Life 150

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11:1-9
 Acts 2:1-21
 John 15:26,27; 16:4-11

SERMON:

HYMN: Come, Holy Spirit 45

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Doxology 132
 OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Breathe on Me, Breath of God 33A

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we approach you for mercy; we come to be healed. We stumble in the dark of our sins and seek a vast forgiveness. We live with fears and weariness, and need lightness and joy. We have sought the things that do not satisfy and we are not at peace. Come and let your spirit overcome us: Show us not only where we have sinned, but how to do better; convince us not only of evil but also of good. Reveal not only our sickness but also our health. Let your spirit's fire fall upon us and burn away all that is impure and leave us filled with light, love and grace. You are God, and your Spirit everywhere abounds, arises and surrounds us. To you is all majesty, honor, power and praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying:

Our God in heaven, holy, is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. L: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. L: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Sweet, Sweet Spirit 111

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

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Today begins the season of Pentecost and reminds us of the work of the Holy Spirit. The color of the season is red, a reminder of the fire that touched the multitude on that Pentecost long ago.

MONDAY: Buddy Training: Dr. Sara Jo Daniel, on "Where do we go from here?" All Buddies are welcome. Anyone interested in the work of the Buddy Program is invited to hear Dr. Daniel. 7:30 p.m., here at the church.

Pentecost is a 7 week season -- a Bible Study of 7 weeks will be held on the Spirit as Reconciler. Studies will be held on Thursday at 7:30. Week 1 (5/18) will be "Reconciliation overcomes the experience of alienation." Everyone is welcome. At the pastor's home.

SATURDAY, MAY 27: Mexican Potluck Supper at the church. 7:00 p.m. Movie night. Cost \$3.00. Invite friends to join us for supper and the film. Film will be "Pass the Ammo," a spoof of TV evangelists.

See James if you are interested in the canoe trip, price is \$32.00 for canoe and tent. Trip is overnight. Weekend of 5/20-21, back in time for church.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36602
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 2nd Sunday in Pentecost (Trinity Sunday) May 21, 1989
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God, How excellent is your name in all the earth.

P: You have exalted your majesty above the heavens.

L: Out of the mouths of babes you have fashioned praise be cause of your foes, to silence the hostile and vengeful.

P: When I behold your heavens, the works of your hands, the moon and stars which you have set in place --

L: What are we that you should be mindful of us or any human one that you should care for us?

P: You have made One alittle lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor.

L: You have given him rule over all the works of your hands, putting all things under his feet:

P: All sheep and oxen, yeas, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea and whatever swims in the seas.

Tog: O God, our God, how glorious is your name over all the earth.

OPENING HYMN: From All That Dwell 85

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 8:22-31
 Romans 5:1-5
 John 3:1-16

SERMON: Twice-Born and Proud of It Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Thank You, God 3

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs. 1 only) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I'm Not Afraid Anymore 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, sometimes we feel as though we move through life with blurred vision. We see life upside-down, crooked and contrary. In our own self-interest, moun-tains are made into molehills and molehills into mountains. We set up briar trees of self-pity and do not see the climbing forests of your grace. O God, you who are the true light that enlightens every one of us, keep us from stumbling in our own dark. Raise up our heads and open our eyes to see the landscapes of your joy. With your love, so may we live in grace, give love to all people and bring joy to all who are

in sorrow. This we ask in the name of Jesus, who is grace and love and joy, and who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy be your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: He Keeps Me Singing 162

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

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No one attended the Pentecost Bible Study, therefore it has been cancelled, unless there are people interested who could not attend.

SATURDAY: Pot luck and movie at the church, Saturday evening. Tell friends, and bring them. Theme is Mexican and there will be a number of dishes prepared for the whole group, plus do-it-yourself-Tacos. \$3.00 admission, includes the movie, which is "Pass the Ammo" a spoof of TV evangelists. Ice tea will be provided. Other drinks (including alcoholic) will be for sale. (Object: To make a little money for the church.)

MEMORIAL DAY: We will have our usual candlelight march in the park to remember those who have died from AIDS. Let's get the word out.

THE KEYWORD IS INVOLVEMENT -- Let's get the community involved in what we do, so that they know us and want to be here.

A SAD NOTE: Rev. Troy Perry's mother, Edith "Mom" Perry died this week of cancer. We also heard about the death of Elder Jim Sandmire of San Francisco. Mom Perry has been one of the great supports of this Fellowship, and Jim was one of our first elders. We will miss them both.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36602
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
May 28, 1989 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Praise God, all you nations; Glorify
God all you people.

P: For steadfast is God's kindness toward us and the fidelity
of God endures forever.

OPENING HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness 174

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: I Kings 18:38-43
Galatians 1:1-10
Luke 7:1-10

SERMON: Good News for ALL the People Rev. Ragona

HYMN: There Is Something About That Name 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs 1) 110
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Cleanse Me 102

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we have sinned against heaven in
your sight. We have tried to be clever rather than kind,
respectable rather than real, practical rather than penetrating.
We have been cynical before the holy and out of the poverty of
our own vision scoffed at the riches of faith. O God, take
our thin, little, meager, beaten, self-pitying souls and by
your grace give them substance and hugeness, generosity,
victory and trust. Encourage us in the risks of compassion
toward all people and toward one another. Teach us awe before
the holiness of things we do not understand. Let us come to
you with confession, hear you with reverence and go into our
world with joy; because you are God and faithful unto us
eternally. In the Name of Jesus who taught us to pray: Our
God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your
will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver
us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and glory,
now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: This Is My Song 209

BENEDICTION: L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

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We ask your prayers for Missy Ragona, the pastor's daughter,
who has had a serious motorcycle accident and was in intensive
care at Springhill Hospital. She is now in a room and doing
fairly well, but has a severe fractured skull which goes
through her right eardrum. Please pray for her healing.

MONDAY: Candlelight Vigil at Bienville Square, to remember
all those who have died of AIDS. Please bring a candle for
each person you wish to remember and then we will march by
candlelight around the square. (7 p.m.)

We have received a beautiful letter from Richard Warnock,
Larry's lover in New Zealand which thanks us for our support
of them and of Richard's service as deacon. Larry left this
week to rejoin Richard in New Zealand and we will miss him.

We have had to postpone the Mexican potluck and movie night
to June 10th due to overloaded schedules on the part of the
committed workers of the church. However, we do look forward
to that night, since it now falls in Gay Pride Month and gives
us an additional activity to announce during that special
celebration month.

Your prayers are also asked for the safety of all our people
who are attending the Osiris beach picnic and traveling back
from Pensacola today.

On this Memorial Day weekend, let us remember all from our
community who have served their country well and who have had
to fight for the recognition that gay people are also citizens
and willing to accept their responsibilities as members of
the armed forces. We thank all the gay men and women who have
demonstrated that loving a person of the same sex does not
somehow mean you love your country less. God bless them all.

278 Dauphin Street
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
3rd Sunday After Pentecost
SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mobile, AL 36602
(205) 476-9142
June 4, 1989

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will extol you, O God, for you drew me clear.

P: You did not let my enemies rejoice over me.
L: O God, I cried out to you and you healed me.
P: You brought me forth from the abode of the dead and preserved me from among those going down into the pit.
L: Sing praise to God, you faithful ones; give thanks to God's holy name.
P: God's anger lasts but a moment, God's goodwill a lifetime.
L: You changed my mourning into dancing; you took off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.
P: My soul shall sing praise to you without ceasing; O God, forever will I give you thanks.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise to God the All-Loving 151

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: I Kings 17:17-24
Galatians 2:11-24
Luke 7:11-17

SERMON: Signs and Wonders Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Arise, Your Light Has Come 210

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY - We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs.1) 110
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: What A Friend We Have in Jesus 178

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, for all within us that has wounded others and caused them grievance, we ask your pardon. For the malice in us, the jealousy and the cold heart, we pray your forgiveness. Above all, we ask your mercy for our part in the general misery of humanity: for ears that will not hear and eyes that will not see. Awaken our pity, strengthen our love. Keep us in faith. Lift our eyes on high. Then send us forth in love where the broken cry out and souls demand the mercy that only heaven gives. We praise you for all the times and places where people have set compassion before hate, and have accepted, for the sake of us all, more than their share of wounds and sorrow. We thank you that your peace -- awesome, amazing and eternal undergirds us all, and for Jesus who came to save and set free, and in whose name we pray: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our

daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Revive Us Again 234

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

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MOVIE NIGHT AND BOT LUCK: June 10th, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. Mexican potluck and movie - "Pass the Ammo!" Come and have a good dinner and a movie for only \$3.00. Help the church make a little money as well.

FLEA MARKET - June 17th, Saturday. Lots of stuff we need to get rid of, and our trash may be someone's treasure. Let's sell it all and fill the church's needs at the same time. Bring your "junque!" next Sunday. (Split 50/50 with Buddies.)

Yet one more church supper -- this time to help raise money again. Get the word out and let's have lots of people come by for a good meal -- Spaghetti, salad, and home made desserts Saturday, June 24th. Let's celebrate Gay Pride Month by doing some useful things!!

There is a Gay Pride March in Birmingham on June 25th to celebrate 20 years since STONEWALL! They will form the parade at noon and begin the march at 1:00 with a rally to follow at Rushton Park. Mobile needs to begin to look at following suit and making it a statewide action. Any takers? (You can always wear a bag on your head!) Think about it. (Remember that when we do newsworthy things, we get publicity for the church and the Buddies that we could not buy.)

Happy Gay Pride Month.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36602
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142

4th Sunday After Pentecost June 11, 1989
SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Happy is the one whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered.

P: Happy is the one to whom God imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

L: Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but kindness surrounds the one who trusts in God.

P: Be glad in your God and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

OPENING HYMN: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: II Samuel 12:1-10, 13
Galatians 2:11-21
Luke 7:38-8:3

SERMON: Love and our Skeletons Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Something Beautiful 6

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Vs 1) 110

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Holy, Holy 11

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Eternal God, take from us that sin by which we declare we have no sin. Make us sorry for all the ways we have wounded one another. Keep us penitent for our neglect of the world's suffering; for the sick we have not visited, for the hungry we have not fed, for the naked we have not clothed, for the prisoners we have not set free. Especially deepen our sadness for not having loved enough the holy, the chaste and the innocent. Teach us to hear each other's loneliness and to extend the hands of love. We praise you, O God for the body mended, the soul cleansed, the heart made glad. We thank you for our mercy, our pardon and our peace. We cry glory! in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy: God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: They'll Know we Are Christians 213

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

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Our thanks to Jim B. for the loan of an air conditioner to keep the sanctuary cool. Thank you, friend.

Thanks to everyone who made our Mexican dinner such fun and such a success. The Mexican cook was the pastor with Shirley's help, and the movie was provided by Charlie and James, who were also kind enough to provide 10 pounds of meat (enough to help with the Italian dinner later this month). Thanks to all who came and helped make a little money for the church.

Thanks also to Charlie, James and Jud for the installation of the air conditioner, and to Judson for mopping up after the latest flood!

REMEMBER THE GARAGE SALE/FLEA MARKET: We need help in moving stuff from the Buddy Building to the church, people to do pricing on Friday night, and sellers to begin at 8 a.m. Pastor will be there at 8:00, and people are needed to help set up. Are there any folding tables, card tables, etc. that can be lent to the church?? SATURDAY, JUNE 17th.

GAY PRIDE GALA ITALIAN DINNER: June 24th, 7 p.m., we will have one more dinner and movie to celebrate Gay Pride Month. Movie will be "Torch Song Trilogy." This one will be advertised in the bars and will be a fund raiser. We need your help. If everyone contributes either a jar of sauce or a package of spaghetti, we will be able to keep costs low. We will need salad makings and deserts. We can have fun and make some money at the same time.

PICNIC -- July 1. Location will be announced.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36604
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 10th Sunday After Pentecost July 23, 1989
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: I will give thanks to you, O God, with
 all my heart, for you have heard the words
 of my mouth.

P: I will worship at your holy temple and give thanks to
 your name, because of your kindness and your truth.

L: You have made great above all things your name and your
 promise.

P: When I called, you answered me; you built up strength
 within me.

L: All the rulers of earth shall give thanks to you. O God,
 when they hear the words of your mouth.

P: They shall sing of the ways of God: "Great is the glory
 of our God."

L: God is exalted, yet sees the lowly, and knows the proud
 from afar.

P: Though I walk amid distress, God preserves me; against
 the hand of the enemy, God's hand is raised.

L: God will complete what has been done for me; your kind-
 ness, O God, endures forever.

P: Your right hand saves me; forsake not the work of your
 hands.

OPENING HYMN: Be Not Dismayed 23

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 18:29-33
 Colossians 2:6-15
 Luke 11:1-13

SERMON: Are You One of the Ten? Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Lord's Prayer 39

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Surrender All 39A

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, in whose mystery we
 abide and by whose mercy we are redeemed, we, here and now,
 confess our sins against each other and against you. More,
 we confess our sins against ourselves. We open all our
 transgressions to you --both hidden and open -- the evil
 done and the goodness left undone. We have betrayed the
 innocents, forgotten the sufferers and mocked the peace-
 makers. We have denied you. Where we have gone from you,

lead us back in love. Where we live in darkness, take the
 cloud from our eyes and the heaviness from our souls. Where
 we wait out our days with fear or hate or boredom, refresh us
 with such mercy as will turn us again to honor you in the
 visible world. Put to use whatever gifts we have to build up,
 to reconcile, and to enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your heads.

L: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and
 praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hsanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: It is Well With My Soul 53

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

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 MONDAY: There will be no Buddy Cares meeting this Monday.

TUESDAY: Last week's meeting with the City Council about
 funding for people with AIDs was put off until this week. Plea
 Please pray for the success of that meeting, so that the needs
 of our friends with AIDS may be met.

WEDNESDAY: The pastor will be doing Holy Union counseling for
 members of the greater community.

SATURDAY: The pastor will be performing a wedding for a hetero
 sexual couple at City Park. We ask you to pray for both of
 these couples not of our church.

SATURDAY: Finally, the spaghetti supper and the movie. Carol
 and Bena were good enough to leave their copy of the film with
 us and we will show the film at 8:00 p.m. Dinner is at 7:00.
 Please come and enjoy -- please come and help. Bring a
 friend and help us pay the church's bills.

Many of the MCC ministers and church delegates will be on the
 road this week returning from General Conference. We ask that
 you pray for their safety and that the work of Conference may
 be empowered in our churches in the coming year.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

78 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL., 36604
 Rev. Marge Ragana, Pastor (205) 476-9142
Last Sunday in Pentecost August 27, 1989
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: And God said to David: "Sit at my
 right hand till I make your enemies
 your footstool."

P: The scepter of your power I will stretch forth from
 Zion: "Rule in the midst of your enemies."
 L: Yours is princely power in the day of your birth, in
 holy splendor; before the daystar, like the dew, I have
 begotten you."
 P: God has sworn and will not repent: "You are a priest
 forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."
 L: God is at your right hand; God will crush kings on the
 day of God's wrath.
 P: God will do judgment on the nations -- drinking from the
 brook by the wayside, God will lift up heads.

OPENING HYMN: A Mighty Fortress is Our God (2nd Version) 250

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 25:6-22
 Hebrews 13:5-16
 Luke 14:15-24

HYMN: Arise Your Light Has Come 210

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Here At Thy Table, Lord 44

PRAYER OF CONVESSION: O God, you have called us to be your
 church, the community of grace, the household of faith, and
 we are too often unprofitable servants. We forget to practice
 love, celebrate mercy, sacrifice ourselves with you. Quicken
 our slow minds, give us solace in grief, sweeten the dry cup
 of hate. Give us hope, Good Lord: strength to broken bodies,
 laughter before our solemn mirrors, carresses in the time of
 loneliness. Give us truth, Wise Lord: love thrust against
 fear, forgiveness wedged against sin, trust shaped against
 death. Give us grace, hope and truth, and forever we will
 bless your name in all that we are, think and do; in the
 name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in
 heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will
 be one on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our

daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
 sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us
 from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory,
 now and frever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD - THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Beulah Land

13

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.
 P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +
 As most of you know, the church was broken into and many items
 damaged. Mike's great painting was cut up and a piece stolen.
 Three of the banners were cut, and the chalice belonging to
 Vern was taken. Bobby's candlestick was removed. In all
 things we praise God! Mike, Missy Ragana, and Marge came
 down and repaired the banners and pieced the painting together
 as well as it could be. We have reported the break-in to
 the police, and they will be contacting some of you. Someone
 (no one in church leadership that we know) gave the police
 the names of people who were at the meeting with the District
 Coordinator, and three people have been accused of the break-
 in, including the pastor. It is a tragic comment that as gay
 people we often destroy the things we love, and a gay man,
 Oscar Wilde, was the first to say that. Please pray that
 the person will be discovered and that God -- if no one else--
 will move that person to come forward and accept responsi-
 bility for this destruction.

We still need a pianist for next week, and if anyone knows
 a person who plays and would be willing to help, please have
 them call us.

HAVE A HAPPY LABOR DAY NEXT WEEKEND!!!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36603
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476- 9142
 9th Sunday After Pentecost July 16, 1989
 SINGSPARATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: O God, who shall sojourn in your tabernacle?
 Who shall dwell on your holy mount?

P: The one who walks blamelessly and does justice; the one
 whose heart thinks the truth; the one who does not slander.

L: The one who does not harm another, nor reproach a neigh-
 bor;

P: The one whom the reprobate despise while God is being
 honored.

L: The one who, though it causes loss, does not change a
 pledged word.

P: The one who does not lend money at usury and does not
 accept a bribe against the innocent.

Tog: The one who does these things shall never be disturbed.

OPENING HYMN: Day Is Dying in the West 256

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 18:1-15
 Colossians 1:21-28
 Luke 10:38-42

SERMON: Anything is Possible Rev.Ragona

HYMN: Take My Hand, Precious Lord 65

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Cleanse Me 102

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we unburden ourselves before you,
 out of a need for your great mercy: We have sinned and done
 much evil in your sight. We have lied to ourselves about our-
 selves, worn masks, and not trusted you enough. We have been
 misers with hope. We fret over illusions and refuse the reali-
 ties that give us life. Yes, God, we err, we fail, we fall --
 we are human. Forgive us, lift us up, redeem us -- through
 Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying: Our
 God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your
 will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
 our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those
 who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver
 us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign, and the
 glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
 and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven
 and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
 in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD-THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Since Jesus Came Into My Heart 71

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

+ + + + +
 MONDAY: July 17, Buddy Program. Open meeting of the Buddy
 Program.

TUESDAY: The City Council is meeting with the Mobile AIDS
 Coalition, at 2:00 p.m. Pray for the success of this meeting.

Next week Judson should be back. Let's all welcome him with
 a good attendance, and let him know how much we appreciate
 him.

We have heard from Al Hillestad that he and Herbie are moving
 to Mexico in September. They have been in Mexico until now
 checking out where they want to live.

Carol and Bena were in town this weekend, and send love to
 you all. Their holy union is August 19th in Montgomery, with
 Mary Moore officiating, and your pastor serving communion.

Joe Tate was by to visit and shared that he will be in
 Laurel and Hattiesburg for the next six months.

We have "Torch Song Trilogy" and would love to have the
 spaghetti supper on July 29th at 7:00, followed by the movie.
 (Next week the pastor has to work all weekend.)

Iris is doing well. Visited her this week, and she is
 mending. She could use a fan, if anyone has one to lend.

Thursday the pastor will be holding a garage sale at the
 church during the day. Anyone having anything to donate,
 please leave it at the pastor's home.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
278 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36604
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
10th Sunday After Pentecost July 23, 1989
SINGSPIRATION WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: I will give thanks to you, O God, with
all my heart, for you have heard the words
of my mouth.

P: I will worship at your holy temple and give thanks to
your name, because of your kindness and your truth.

L: You have made great above all things your name and your
promise.

P: When I called, you answered me; you built up strength
within me.

L: All the rulers of earth shall give thanks to you. O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.

P: They shall sing of the ways of God: "Great is the glory
of our God."

L: God is exalted, yet sees the lowly, and knows the proud
from afar.

P: Though I walk amid distress, God preserves me; against
the hand of the enemy, God's hand is raised.

L: God will complete what has been done for me; your kind-
ness, O God, endures forever.

P: Your right hand saves me; forsake not the work of your
hands.

OPENING HYMN: Be Not Dismayed 23

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 18:29-33
Colossians 2:6-15
Luke 11:1-13

SERMON: Are You One of the Ten? Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Lord's Prayer 39

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Surrender All 39A

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, in whose mystery we
abide and by whose mercy we are redeemed, we, here and now,
confess our sins against each other and against you. More,
we confess our sins against ourselves. We open all our
transgressions to you --both hidden and open -- the evil
done and the goodness left undone. We have betrayed the
innocents, forgotten the sufferers and mocked the peace-
makers. We have denied you. Where we have gone from you,

lead us back in love. Where we live in darkness, take the
cloud from our eyes and the heaviness from our souls. Where
we wait out our days with fear or hate or boredom, refresh us
with such mercy as will turn us again to honor you in the
visible world. Put to use whatever gifts we have to build up,
to reconcile, and to enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your heads.

L: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and
praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hsanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna
in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: It is Well With My Soul 53

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
MONDAY: There will be no Buddy Cares meeting this Monday.

TUESDAY: Last week's meeting with the City Council about
funding for people with AIDs was put off until this week. Please
Please pray for the success of that meeting, so that the needs
of our friends with AIDS may be met.

WEDNESDAY: The pastor will be doing Holy Union counseling for
members of the greater community.

SATURDAY: The pastor will be performing a wedding for a hetero
sexual couple at City Park. We ask you to pray for both of
these couples not of our church.

SATURDAY: Finally, the spaghetti supper and the movie. Carol
and Bena were good enough to leave their copy of the film with
us and we will show the film at 8:00 p.m. Dinner is at 7:00.
Please come and enjoy -- please come and help. Bring a
friend and help us pay the church's bills.

Many of the MCC ministers and church delegates will be on the
road this week returning from General Conference. We ask that
you pray for their safety and that the work of Conference may
be empowered in our churches in the coming year.



GUESS WHO'S COMING TO MOBILE?

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

...A church for all people with a special ministry of and to the Gay and Lesbian community.

INTRODUCTORY COMMUNITY MEETING

WHERE: 4500 Bit and Spur Road

WHEN: Sunday, March 3rd, 6:00 p.m.

Other churches want you to change before they'll accept you. MCC says you are God's child exactly as you are, and God loves you NOW.

If you have heard about MCC, or know others who have belonged to or attended an MCC you know who we are -- if you haven't come and find out that we are the church in and of the Gay community -- and we are beginning a church here in Mobile that you and your friends will want to attend. No head trips, no cures, no changes in your life-style -- just the honest message that God loves you and all people, and that love operates today.

FUN

REFRESHMENTS

MUSIC

FOR INFORMATION CALL 476-9142

FIRST ANNIVERSARY AWARDS BANQUET

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Rev. Marge Ragona

INVOCATION

Mr. Ken Jones

DINNER

CHURCH HISTORY

Shirley Lambert

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Michael Fitzgerald
Ronald Hunt
Tom Rose
Rev. Ragona

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Ragona

ADDRESS

"What's for Sure?"

Rev. Elder John Hose

BENEDICTION

Rev. Elder Hose

Metropolitan Community Church at Mobile is celebrating the anniversary of the founding of this church one year ago. Tonight we honor those who, in this first year, have been important in our growth, our sense of community, and our continuing ability to worship God together. To all of you we say thank you and bless you for your faithfulness and love.

REV. ELDER EMERITUS JOHN HOSE

John Hose has been one of the ministers who have been important in the shaping of MCC's theology and practice. He was one of the original group who met in Troy Perry's living room when the church came into being. It was Rev. Elder Hose who drafted the first Statement of Faith of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Born in Ohio, John Hose was a pastor in the Evangelical and Reformed Churches prior to his becoming a member of MCC, ministering in that denomination for many years until he felt the need to leave it.

Since coming to MCC, John Hose has pastored at Los Angeles, San Diego, Tampa, Atlanta and was one of the original Board of Elders of the U. F. M. C. C. He currently serves on the Board of Regents of Samaritan Institute for Theology, UFMCC's training wing for ministers and laity.

Rev. Elder Hose currently lives in Atlanta and is active in the MCC of the Blessed Redeemer there.

It is our privilege and pleasure to have Rev. Elder Hose with us tonight and he will also be bringing the message tomorrow at our worship service.

Metropolitan Community Church



AT MOBILE

